

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch



Newsletter 113



Butterfly
Conservation

October 2022

Field Trips 2022 - Highlights



*Glanville Fritillary pair. Sheila Williams
Ascending Mottistone Chalk Pits. Kay Shaw*



*There's an Adonis Blue in their somewhere!
Taken on Stockbridge Down.
Kevin Freeborn
Dark Green Fritillary. Sheila Williams*





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*Two's company, three's a crowd!
Steve Easter*

With apologies to Steve Easter for crediting this extraordinary Marsh Fritillary photo to Steve Wheatley in the October 2021 edition of the Newsletter.

**Kevin Freeborn,
Newsletter Editor**



Chairman's Message

As I write this message in mid August, the shade temperature in my garden is reading 33°C, and a drought has just been declared. Over the last six weeks, our south Hampshire garden has received just 1.7mm of rain, and everywhere around is parched. Farmers are struggling with their crops and the fire risk is high. I'm sure by the time you receive this Newsletter things will have changed, and long overdue rain will have arrived, but I just wanted to highlight the extreme conditions experienced in southern England

this summer, as climate scientists are predicting that such events are likely to occur more frequently. The natural world is of course very resilient, but when the pace of change is rapid it is hard for butterflies to adjust, and small isolated populations are especially vulnerable. The drought of 1976, coincided with good butterfly numbers, but was followed in 1977 by population collapses for many species. We will have to wait to see what happens next year, but I fear that some of the grassland butterflies may not fare well in 2023, as their caterpillars will have struggled when their foodplants dried up in the extreme conditions of summer 2022.

As a Butterfly Conservation member, you probably need little convincing of the seriousness of the Climate Crisis, and the equally important Biodiversity Crisis, but with so many global issues, there is a real risk that such important topics slip down the agenda, even though it is clear that more action is urgently needed. Rest assured, however, that Butterfly Conservation is working hard to achieve positive conservation outcomes for butterflies, moths and other wildlife. It has an evidence-based scientific approach to everything that it does, and understanding the conservation needs of each species is paramount to the implementation of successful conservation action. This is why your individual records are so important. We are fortunate that Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch has so many active butterfly and moth recorders, providing an up-to-date understanding of the status, distribution and trends for all species in our area. Whether you contribute through records sent in as part of the Big Butterfly Count, Butterfly Transect

Monitoring, Wider Countryside Surveys, Garden Butterfly counts, Moth recording or ad hoc records, it all helps. So, thank you one and all, keep up the good work!

Helping to co-ordinate Butterfly Conservation's work in South East England, I am pleased to announce that in May 2022, Paul Tinsley-Marshall joined Butterfly Conservation, as Regional Conservation Manager. Paul will be working with the various Branches in South East England, to develop landscape and species conservation projects, guiding reserves management, and contributing towards Butterfly Conservation's various strategic goals. Myself, and other Committee members, very much look forward to working with Paul, as we believe a strong working relationship between staff and volunteers is essential if we are to maximise our conservation efforts.

Butterfly Conservation's three Hampshire reserves (Magdalen Hill Down, Yew Hill and Bentley Station Meadow) are places of great beauty, and continue to play a vital role in terms of conservation, education and engagement. We had a fantastic New Members' Day at Magdalen Hill Down, on 6 August, with everyone treated to an incredible display of Chalk Hill Blues, at what is undoubtedly one of the premier sites in the county. The beautiful Adonis Blue was also seen in good numbers, which is especially encouraging, as it only colonised the site a few years ago. Sightings of Clouded Yellows were an added bonus, and for some their first view of this lovely butterfly. Having volunteers help with the ongoing monitoring and practical management on reserves is so important, and once again, I'd like to say a special thank you to all those who have helped. If you would like to become more involved, please contact Fiona Scully, Steve Lockett or Paul Tinsley-Marshall (details inside back cover), as we're always looking for extra help.

So what else has been happening over the summer and what were my personal highlights? As far as I'm concerned the most encouraging news of the year has been the resurgence of the Wall butterfly in the Shipton Bellinger area of north-west Hampshire. It's been building up for a few years now, probably due to individuals spreading out from its Salisbury Plain stronghold, in neighbouring Wiltshire, but this year was the best I can remember. Second brood peak counts of 20+ were recorded more than once at Shipton Bellinger, and new colonies were found at various locations in the near vicinity.

My garden highlight of the year was the unexpected visit of a Chalk Hill Blue to our Buddleia in late July, the first for the garden, but I must say I'm envious of one of my neighbours who was lucky enough to photograph a Purple Emperor in his garden in early July. Hummingbird Hawk-moths also appear to

have had a good year, and I'm sure many of you will have encountered them in your garden, or when you've been out walking.

As always, we're still looking for additional volunteers to help with Committee work. Previous requests have resulted in several people coming forward, and I'm pleased to say that two members will be standing for election to specific roles on the Branch Main Committee at this year's Branch AGM. We do, however, still have vacancies for **Branch Secretary** and **Shows and Events Organiser**. The former is a largely administrative role, liaising with BC Head Office, and the latter is essential for Branch participation in public engagement events to raise the profile of Butterfly Conservation. Existing Branch volunteers with experience of shows and events would be available to provide advice and guidance. If you feel either of these roles are something you might like to help with, I'd be very pleased to hear from you and provide a more detailed job specification.

Covid-permitting, our Branch AGM and Members' Day is all set for 6 November, as an indoor social event, at our regular Littleton Hall venue. The hall is booked and we have what I believe is a great line-up of speakers covering a wide range of topics. Whether you're a regular attendee or someone new to the Branch, it would be great to see you there, for what promises to be a great afternoon (see page 6 for details).

Andy Barker,
Branch Chair



Wall Brown. Rosemary Powell

Branch AGM and Members' Day 2022



Branch members are warmly invited to attend our 40th Anniversary AGM and Members' Day, at the Littleton Millennium Hall, Littleton, near Winchester, on **Sunday 6 November 2022**.

A timetable is shown on page 6, and a map and location details are included on page 7.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and associated restrictions, this is the first time we've been able to schedule an indoor AGM and Members' Day since 2019. At present there is no need to register for the 2022 event, but should the Covid situation worsen in the autumn, we may of course have to revise our plans, and if necessary revert to the Zoom webinar format we have successfully employed over the last couple of years. Any such changes would be notified to members via the Branch website, and through a group email to those who have opted to receive email communications. For those without internet access who have concerns about whether the indoor event is still on, please phone Andy Barker (Branch Chairman) using the number given on page 32.

I'm sure like me, you're looking forward to getting back to having an indoor event and a chance to socialise with friends and make new acquaintances. We have four excellent speakers, presenting on a diverse mix of topics, some directly relevant to Hampshire and Isle of Wight, but others introducing species you may be less familiar with. The keynote presentation will be by Dr Jim Asher (former Chair of BC Trustees) on the Butterflies of south-west Scotland. Hopefully you'll be suitably interested to attend, and on behalf of the Branch Committee let me extend a warm welcome to you all.

Members are asked to bring a packed lunch, which can be eaten in the break after the formal business of the AGM, combined with the opportunity to mingle with fellow members. By popular demand, the photographic competition will also return (see page 8).



Timetable for the day

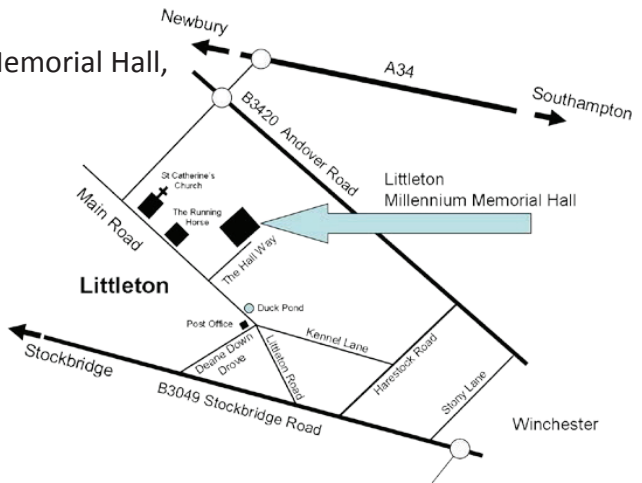
- 11:30 Doors open
- 12:00-12:05 Chairman's Welcome
- 12:05-13:00 Branch AGM – see separate Agenda below
- 13:00-13:45 Lunch Break
- 13:45-14:30 Butterflies of SW Scotland – Dr Jim Asher
- 14:30-14:50 The Large Tortoiseshell – Will Langdon
- 14:50-15:20 Refreshments and photographic competition
- 15:20-15:40 Priority Moth Species of Hampshire and Isle of Wight – Tony Davis
- 15:40-16:00 Duke of Burgundy in Hampshire – Ashley Whitlock
- 16:00-16:15 Results of photographic competition
- 16:15-16:25 Questions and answers, and Chairman's closing remarks

Annual General Meeting 2022

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2021 AGM (with acceptance vote)
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Presentation of Accounts
5. Chairman's Report
6. Election of new Main Committee members
7. Health and Safety Matters
8. Any other business
(notified to Chairman no later than 30 October 2022)
9. Close of AGM

Littleton Millennium Memorial Hall,
The Hall Way,
Littleton,
Winchester,
SO22 6QL
Grid ref: SU 457,323



Information about the 2022 AGM will be available via a link on the Home Page of the Branch website – www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk – from where you'll be able to find the draft 2021 AGM Minutes and Branch Accounts for financial year 2021-2022. Details of those Members standing for election to the Branch Committee will be given in a finalised 2022 AGM Agenda posted on the Branch website no later than 28 October.

Please note:

- To save on paper, the draft 2021 AGM Minutes and Branch Accounts will not be distributed at the AGM. For those Members without internet access who would like to receive a copy of the draft 2021 AGM Minutes or 2021-2022 Branch Accounts, or would like to arrange a proxy vote, please contact the Branch Chairman by no later than Friday 21 October.
- As all Branch accounts are now handled by BC Head Office and are consolidated as part of Butterfly Conservation's fully audited accounts, there is no longer any legal requirement for Branches to present their accounts to Branch Members for approval at their Branch AGM. Our Branch Accounts are, therefore, presented for information only.

The draft Minutes of the 2021 AGM will be posted onto the Branch website www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk a few weeks after the meeting. You will be able to find these Minutes by following Home > About > Minutes of AGMs > 2022.

**Andy Barker,
Branch Chair**

Photographic Competition 2022

Prints will be displayed and judged in the following categories:

- UK Butterflies
- UK Moths
- Immature stages
- Overseas butterflies and moths
- First-time entrants on any of the above subjects

The event is only open to Branch members, and all members entering images into the photographic competition do so on the following terms and conditions:

1. Image(s) must have been taken by the entrant in the 18 months preceding entry into the competition.
2. Entrants agree that their images may be used for non-commercial purposes by the Branch. This includes publishing images on the Branch website, social media channels and in the Branch Newsletter and Annual Butterfly and Moth reports. Copyright will remain with the member at all times and will be acknowledged when images are used by the Branch.
3. All images must be prints not exceeding A4 size (297x210mm) in either landscape or portrait format and may be mounted or unmounted.
4. Entries are limited to three per entrant.

All members attending the meeting will be invited to complete a voting slip to identify their favourite image in each category and to choose their overall winning entry. The results will be collated and the winner announced at the end of the meeting.

First-time entrants

Following the success of this element of the competition in previous years and to encourage new member entries, we will be continuing with the category for images submitted by first-time entrants but otherwise on the same conditions as above.

Members unable to attend the day but who wish to submit prints may do so by posting them to **Lee Hurrell, Whitebeams, Enmill Lane, Pitt, Winchester, SO22 5QR**, to arrive by **Saturday 5 November**. Please ensure that you enclose a stamped addressed envelope if you wish your prints to be returned.

Images for the Annual Butterfly Report



Adonis Blue. Lee Hurrell

I am sure, like me, you have many photographs from this year's butterflies. If you would like to potentially have some included in this year's Annual Report, please feel free to email them to me, at lee.hurrell1@gmail.com

I need one image for each of Hampshire's species and will choose one from those received. The deadline for receiving these is end of December 2022.

I am particularly interested in some of our less common species: Wall, Grayling, Glanville Fritillary, Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary and any others you have. I appreciate a Hampshire Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary is a challenge, so if you have any older photos, I will consider those too.

Lee Hurrell

Recording Butterflies in Hampshire and Isle of Wight

We are regularly seeing accounts of butterfly sightings on social media and on our own website 'News'. Such sightings **do not** make their way into our formal records unless the recorder also adds to one of our accepted recording methods. As well as our regular Hampshire/Isle of Wight species it is particularly useful to receive formal sightings of occasional scarcer migrants which seem to be increasing these days.

The firm favourite for recording these days is **iRecord** with opportunities to include all biological records. Or alternatively, **iRecord Butterflies App** (from iTunes or Google Play). Please see our website Recording page.

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch (hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk)

Your help is vital and every record really does count!

*Bob Annell,
County Butterfly Recorder*



Reserves News

Magdalen Hill Down

It's been a summer filled with group walks and visits. The Hampshire Flora Group and local natural history groups came and saw Magdalen offering its mix of grassland and wildflowers, its colours and scents, skylark song and buzzing insects. It takes your breath away when you see restored land wildlife-rich again. Thanks to Anna Stewart for organising such excellent, well-attended walks and for updating our botanical records and species lists.

The reserve walks have been well attended and Rupert Broadway recorded 21 butterfly species on one visit at Yew Hill. We managed to equal that at Magdalen including Small Blues, Chalk Hill Blues, the Adonis, Clouded Yellows and many Gatekeepers.

We had several volunteer groups with the South Downs National Park (SDNP) Volunteers and Hampshire Conservation Volunteers helping battle through overgrown footpaths and pull up ragwort in the Allotment field. Thankfully there was much less ragwort this year compared to last year's infestation in the Allotments.

It was a pleasure to have Ioan Clifton join me on work experience for a week from Henry Beaufort School. He helped on practical tasks, tree surveys, butterfly walks and research projects.

It's been an exceptional summer for the Chalk Hill Blue. The heat and uninterrupted sunshine has been perfect for this species. How wonderful to see them in such numbers. But it's been worryingly dry, with concern for the parched land and impacts on wildlife. I'm sure at some point rain will restore the ground to its former green and the grass will start growing again...

Our summer cows. Fiona Scully



Yew Hill

Yew Hill and Hill Top are looking good but the amount of young hawthorn growth and dogwood on the main reserve is still plentiful, even after all the work the volunteers put in last winter. The dongas are looking better, especially where lines of scrub were dug out. We plan on using contractors to give some extra help this winter. The Southern Water meadow is looking more like a meadow again but still with huge amounts of scrub, so lots of work for the volunteers to tackle. We now have fifteen sheep grazing at Hill Top. Thanks to all the dedicated transect walkers who survey the reserves over summer as it really informs and guides grazing and management.

*Early summer flowers
on Yew Hill.
Fiona Scully*



Chilcomb Sports Ground Butterfly Scrape

It's alive! From a square of bare white chalk, it now has a covering of mignonette and is attracting a lot of bees. This is an improvement from the sports field mown lawn. Kidney vetch is also abundant and will hopefully flower next year. A very small corn marigold was flowering, but how they cope with the heat, exposure, no rain and no soil I've no idea. They are small but super-tough plants. However, I don't think many of the plug plants survived with such little rain. The long grass area complements the scrape and it's looking promising that this will develop into a really special place for butterflies.

Volunteers

The Volunteer BBQ turned into a picnic, due to extreme hot weather and fire risk. Despite the small numbers, it was a sweet get together. The occasion was a thank you for all the time and dedication that volunteers give to the reserves.

The Twyford Waterworks exchange visit went really well. Their site was a fascinating story of how volunteers saved the steam pump, buildings and lime kilns, and restored the grounds for wildlife. Their visit to Magdalen was on a cool, grey day after all the sunshine, but we were rewarded by lots of butterflies and birdlife. The story here is also of the dedication and vision of volunteers: we hope to meet with the SDNP to assess any potential to create corridors between the two sites, as we are all part of the same chalk landscape.

Volunteer Task Days

Magdalen Hill Down: these will resume on 3 October and take place every Monday until March.

Yew Hill: beginning on 5 October these will be fortnightly each Wednesday.

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

I hope you all had a good butterfly summer. I look forward to seeing you on the reserves soon.

Fiona Scully,
South Downs Landscape Officer

Bentley Station Meadow

I hope some of you have been able to visit Bentley Station Meadow (BSM) over the summer. My neighbour Alan sent me a nice photo of a Large Skipper taken on a visit there in June.



*Large Skipper on Comfrey
at BSM. Alan Cox*

I've hosted a nursery school visit from Frensham Heights. On arrival the 4- and 5-year-olds seemed disappointed I wasn't Steve Backshall, but I can understand that. They explored in small groups but conditions weren't great for butterflies, although they did find drinker moth caterpillars and one sharp-eyed lad found a mat of grasshopper eggs on a grass blade (I had to Google to ID). I was also invited to Binsted Primary where I took some simple fact sheets from munchingcaterpillars.org to get children discussing lifecycles and foodplants. The school has a nice wildflower patch but again it was unfavourable weather to go out looking for butterflies.

We are in the process of improving access to BSM, and anyone who has visited in the winter knows why this is needed. A grant from Veolia Environmental Services will make getting onto the reserve easier and log benches will be installed to encourage visitors to sit and enjoy nature. We will continue to manage the scrub with contractors and soon there will be a programme of volunteer task days, watch this space. We have plans to install a pond in the wet woodland and hope to see life in it next spring.

Enjoy the rest of the autumn.

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

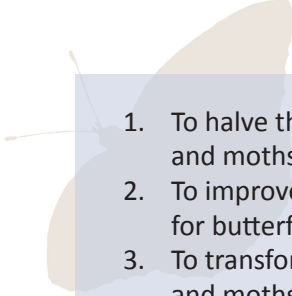
Conservation News – South East England Region



I'm delighted to have joined Butterfly Conservation in the role of Regional Conservation Manager for South East England. My career in conservation spans the last 20 years or so. Most recently I have been working for Kent Wildlife Trust, in a role with a strong focus on wildlife monitoring and evidence-based practice. I have previously also worked for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust, at Dungeness Bird Observatory (great mothing!), and in some more exotic locations, with the Mauritius Wildlife Foundation and doing field research in Borneo. Having studied entomology in various guises to post graduate level I'm particularly pleased to be here and have always seen Butterfly Conservation as a hugely effective and influential organisation. I have been involved as a committee member of the Kent and South East London Branch of Butterfly Conservation for a number of years, and now hope to be able to support all the South East of England branches in the great work they do for Lepidoptera. It is striking just how dedicated and committed Butterfly Conservation volunteers are, and their contribution to our work cannot be understated.

At the time of writing, it's been a hectic two months since I joined the organisation, with quite a lot of admin to get to grips with and a great deal of information to take on board. I've probably forgotten as much as I have retained, but I definitely feel like I am settling in well. Most enjoyably, I have been out and about meeting my new team and other colleagues and getting up to speed with the projects that are going on in the region. I particularly enjoyed visiting Magdalen Hill Down, one of our flagship reserves. I was shown around by Fiona Scully and Andy Barker, who enthusiastically showed me the highlights and results of all the hard work on this site to-date. Further afield, a particular highlight was seeing Black-veined Moth with the Kent's Magnificent Moths team at Wye, the great work being done for Wood White in Surrey, and getting to grips with the management of Rowland Wood and Park Corner Heath, a Butterfly Conservation reserve closer to home for me, in Sussex.

It's an exciting time to join Butterfly Conservation, and to take on a role helping to deliver its ambitious strategy. I'm looking forward to getting stuck into the nitty-gritty of delivering our core goals, which are:

- 
1. To halve the number of the UKs threatened species of butterflies and moths;
 2. To improve the condition of 100 of the most important landscapes for butterflies and moths;
 3. To transform 100,000 wild spaces in the UK for people, butterflies and moths.

There is so much potential to realise nature recovery in the South East, and a wealth of opportunities to explore – I'm already beginning to make contact and begin discussions with the South East branches and colleagues throughout the organisation. You can follow me on **Twitter@PaulTMEcologist** and I am looking forward to meeting and working with more of you in due course.

Paul Tinsley-Marshall,
Regional Conservation Manager, South East England

*below. Pathfield, Magdalen Hill Down. Fiona Scully
below right and opposite. Chalk Hill Blue. Sheila Williams
Crossing Magdalen Hill Down. Andy Barker
Fiona's talk on BC reserves. Andy Barker*



New Members' Day, 6 August 2022



Branch members gathered for a morning of presentations at St Swithun's on Saturday 6 August. These included: 'Butterfly and Moth Recording' with WCBS Co-ordinator Jacky Adams, 'Gardening for Butterflies and Moths' with branch vice chair Rupert Broadway, and 'Photographing Butterflies and Moths in relation to their Lifecycle and Ecology' with Pete Eeles. There were talks on 'BC Reserves' with South Downs Landscape Officer Fiona Scully, and the 'Evolution of Magdalen Hill Down (MHD) as a Reserve Supporting 31 Species of Butterfly' with branch chair Dr Andy Barker.

On arrival at MHD for a guided tour in small groups, we were greeted by several butterflies on the wing. To everyone's delight these were first sightings for some of our party – a Clouded Yellow and Chalk Hill Blue. Following our picnic with a beautiful view from the heights of the reserve, we joined the Original part of the reserve, host to many Chalk Hill Blues, some Adonis Blues, Brown Argus, one or two Small Blues and Clouded Yellows, all fast on the wing. It seemed that rather like the butterflies, we all felt very animated, and we took photos, asked questions and talked to one another about our different experiences with butterflies and moths from our varied locations across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Suzie Brown, Membership Secretary





Back to Nature

After a two-year Covid induced pause to our programme of school visits on Magdalen Hill Down reserve, it has been wonderful to welcome local school children back to this beautiful site.

This year, school visits to Magdalen Hill Down have run a little differently. Back in 2018, our Branch-led project, Wild in Winchester, saw Project Officer Kate Barrett devise a school ‘offer’ from scratch, developing curriculum-based resources and building relationships with schools in the area. Hundreds of children were welcomed on to the reserve to discover the wildlife and explore ‘Rosebay Corner’ our giant, outdoor classroom. The pandemic enforced a temporary pause, but continued Branch support and a new partnership with Winchester Science Centre has meant that we can once more offer up this fantastic opportunity.



Having always supported the school visits, the Science Centre’s team of Inspirers now runs our school programme on our behalf. Kate Barrett led two full days of training for the team, covering everything from the Hunt for Habitats activity, to Wild Art and everyone’s favourite – the moth trap! Thanks to support from the Branch, we were able to spruce up our dedicated education area with new logs for the log circle, replacement reptile refugia and fresh stocks of sweep nets, bug jars and identification guides.

As you might expect from dedicated science communicators, the team at the Science Centre has embraced this new element to their work. “Every time we brought a new set of children up on to the reserve it felt like a new adventure, as we would always encounter different aspects of British wildlife,

from dormice to birds of prey, to the rich variety of insects and butterflies. Being able to learn about our natural world alongside the children has been a terrific experience” explains Jackson. “I particularly enjoyed discovering and learning about the wide variety of native reptile species, as before heading up on the reserve I had never seen slow-worms or lizards in the UK.”

Meanwhile, fellow Inspirer Tash reflected on the difference in the children out on the reserve; “When children normally come into the Science Centre, they tend to have a pretty good understanding of everything around them. What was really different when being on the reserve was that for many kids, they didn’t have much experience being outside, around nature. It was a joy to see them discover small things they’d never seen before and watching them interact with a new environment. It was so interesting seeing children go from being too scared to even sit on the grass, to being completely immersed in bug hunting or looking at different plants.”



Nature study returns to Magdalen Hill Down. All images, Kate Merry

After a break for the summer holidays, reserve visits will be available for schools again for the autumn/winter term.

Volunteer Help needed!

We are always on the look out for volunteers to help support our school visits at Magdalen Hill Down. If you have a passion for nature, enjoy sharing your knowledge with young people and have a little time to spare we would love to hear from you. Full training is provided. Please contact Kate Merry, kmerry@butterfly-conservation.org for more details.

Kate Merry

40 Years of Achievement



In this, our Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch 40th Anniversary year, I thought I should build on a piece I wrote for the 25th Anniversary (Newsletter 79, September 2007), giving a potted history of the Branch. To keep to a reasonable length, what follows is a very abridged version. A fuller version is available on the Branch website at www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk/webpage.php?name=articles With so many who have contributed so much to the success of the Branch over the years, you'll have to excuse me if only a few people get a specific mention. Whether you are a new member or someone who has been with us since the start, I hope you'll find this account of interest, and a measure of just how much we've achieved over the last 40 years.

In the latter part of **1981** a meeting took place between Matthew Oates and Pat Torrie with regard to the formation of a Hampshire Branch of the British Butterfly Conservation Society (what is now Butterfly Conservation). It was, however, not until the following year that the Branch became fully operational, with Newsletters, a Committee and an AGM.

1982: Hampshire Branch forms; first Newsletter (March 1982) by Matthew Oates, typed A4 format; 25 members in March, 50 by year end; first field meeting on 30 May at Noar Hill; first AGM on 23 October at Alton Community Centre, where first Committee (five members) elected, and a set of 'Rules' drawn up; Small Tortoiseshell awarded 'Butterfly of the Year' (those were the days!).

1983: Branch Subscription £2 for Ordinary Member; several butterfly transects established; first Branch conservation work party took place at Noar Hill; Matthew Oates still trying to get telephone installed (internet, e-mail, what are they?); great Clouded Yellow year.

1984: April = 102 members; 9 Committee members; donation of £100 to Wildlife Trust towards purchase of Broughton Down; Branch receives £1000 from anonymous donor; first distribution map published (but of our members, not a butterfly!).

1985: First AGM in Winchester (Parchment Street); High Brown Fritillary considered extinct; Matthew Oates booklet *Garden Plants for Butterflies* published; first annual 'Butterfly Report' produced, A4 typed and photocopied, entirely written by Matthew Oates. If Newsletter 12 is to be believed, one of our founder members was a Morris Minor!

1986: John Hay becomes Patron, and generously supports the Branch over the ensuing years; Newsletter 16 becomes A5 format (continued in all subsequent issues).

1987: George Yorke joins Committee; AGM moves to St. Barnabas Church Hall,

Weeke, Winchester, where it was held for the next 20 years; text of Newsletter becomes computerised (Andy Barker using his state of the art Amstrad!).

1988: First sponsorship (British Gas) for Hampshire Butterfly Report (with colour cover!); Report included nine hand-drawn distribution maps and had records from 100 contributors.

1989: Membership reaches 250; Yew Hill established as the first Branch nature reserve; scrub management starts at Magdalen Hill Down in November 1989.

1990: Magdalen Hill Down (MHD) formally established as our second Branch reserve, with lease commencing 1 January 1990; Conservation Sub-committee established; April 1990 (Issue No.27), Juliet Bloss becomes Newsletter Editor, continuing for an incredible 24 years, (Issue No.97)!; Yew Hill official opening in May; Branch acquires a computer; all butterfly records computerised (dbase), with 14,500 records on database by September; Report becomes Hampshire & Isle of Wight Butterfly Report, and includes first computer generated species distribution maps. Peter Welch becomes Branch Treasurer, and continued in that role for a decade.

1991: Branch wins 'Hampshire Award' for conservation work at Yew Hill; Magdalen Hill Down fenced and grazing initiated (sheep and Shetland ponies); first colour photos in Annual Report.

1992: Magdalen Hill Down officially opened by Society President, Gordon Beningfield, on 9 May 1992; later in the year Bentley Station Meadow acquired as our third reserve; Branch membership now exceeds 500.

1993: John Taverner becomes Editor of Butterfly Report, a job he did for an incredible 13 years; moths start to feature, with 'Mothchat' in Newsletter and first generator acquired for moth-trapping.

1994: Moths get their own section in Annual Report.

1995: National Members' Day comes to Hampshire (Aldershot); Branch membership is 724; Heritage Lottery Fund awards £70,000 towards acquisition and restoration of Magdalen Hill Down Extension.

1996: Magdalen Hill Down Extension acquired; incredible Painted Lady invasion.

1997: *Butterflies of Southampton* (1st edition, by Andy Barker and Phil Budd) published; Magdalen Hill Down Extension seeded; 'Area Groups' initiated; Lynn Fomison appointed Branch Reserves Officer.

1998: Information Sub-committee formed; Portsmouth Area Group (subsequently South-east Hampshire Area Group) formed, with Andrew Brookes as Chairman.

1999: Magdalen Hill Down Extension official opening by Society President, Sir David Attenborough; Branch gets its own website (September 1999).

2000: *Butterflies of Hampshire* (Ed: Matthew Oates, John Taverner, David Green *et al.*) published; George Yorke receives 'Volunteer of the Year' award at National AGM; Butterfly Conservation's 'South-central England Regional Action Plan' published; first computer generated moth distribution maps appear in Newsletter.

2001: *Moths of Hampshire & Isle of Wight* by Barry Goater and Tim Norriss published; Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak across UK limits recording in early part of season.

2002: Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) launched, with Butterfly Conservation a key recording group partner; hybrid elm project initiated by Andrew Brookes (South-east Area Group) as action for White-letter Hairstreak; Butterfly Conservation appoints first South-east England Regional Officer.

2003: Membership reaches 835; Assistant Regional Officer appointed.

2004: Magdalen Hill Down 'North' acquired; first exchange with HBIC of our butterfly and moth data (on MapMate database); 'HantsMoths' e-group set up.

2005: 5th International Butterfly Symposium, organised by Butterfly Conservation, held in Southampton, with field excursion to New Forest; *Butterflies of Southampton* (2nd Edition) published to coincide with conference. Grizzled Skipper becomes firmly established at MHD.

2006: First New Members' Day held at Magdalen Hill Down. Incredible Chalk Hill Blue numbers recorded on Magdalen Hill Down butterfly transect. Now well over 3000 (annual index) compared with 300 when site first acquired; incredible growth in moth recording, with 120,000 moth records submitted!

2007: Branch membership tops 1000, the first Branch of the Society to reach this landmark figure; more than 1.2 million butterfly and moth records held on the Branch database, with 24 recorders having each submitted more than 10,000 records!

2008: UKBMS transect data for whole of UK made available through a dedicated website. Hants & IoW Branch has the most transects of any Branch. Tytherley Woods Project begins, with Kate Dent as Project Manager. First AGM and Members' Day held at Littleton Village Hall.

2009: BC National AGM held in Winchester. Educational Access visits to BC reserves in Hampshire earn £5000. Incredible Painted Lady year; the best in living memory.

2010: Branch hosts its first Moth Conference; Isle of Wight Area Group established.

2011: Lynn Fomison retires as Reserves Officer, after 14 years of exceptional service in the role; succeeded by Jayne Chapman as new Reserves Officer from 1 October.

2012: Magdalen Hill Down (Old Allotments) leased from Church Commissioners, enlarging MHD by a further 3.6 hectares, to 50 ha (110 acres). Branch Facebook and Twitter accounts established.

2013: Ashley Whitlock becomes Field Meetings Organiser, a role he has done ever since. Number of active Hants & IoW butterfly transects exceeds 100.

2014: Kevin Freeborn becomes Newsletter Editor, and with Dan and Rosemary Powell, continues to produce Branch Newsletters of the very highest standard. Bob Annell takes on the role of County Butterfly Recorder and Annual Report Editor, and continues to this day. June Bailey Education Fund is established, thanks to a generous bequest from Ken Bailey.

2015: Appeal for funds towards the Marsh Fritillary (NE Hants) re-introduction project raises £6,200, the largest sum ever raised by a BC Branch appeal.

2016: Marsh Fritillary larval captive breeding programme commences. One million butterfly records held on the Branch database. *Hampshire & Isle of Wight Butterfly Walks* booklet published. Pete Eeles, past Chair, recognised with Marsh Christian Trust award at national AGM.

2017: Marsh Fritillary captive breeding in full swing (c.7000 larvae). Sharing Heritage grant awarded for joint educational project “Wild in Winchester”, with Winchester Science Centre. Part-time Branch Education Officer appointed.

2018: First Marsh Fritillary larvae reintroduced (officially) to former sites in NE Hampshire (adults first seen on 21 May). Adonis Blue colonises MHD reserve. BC national holds 8th International Symposium ‘The Ecology and Conservation of Butterflies and Moths’ at University of Southampton. 500 children visit MHD to learn about butterflies.

2019: A combined total of 105,000 butterfly records submitted by more than 2,500 recorders, amounting to almost 500,000 butterflies counted! 158 active transects. Final release of Marsh Fritillary larvae takes place, with over 27,000 in total.

2020: Significant funding from the Branch helps initiate a Hampshire-based Education and Volunteer Development Officer post. Following BC restructuring, Jayne Chapman (Senior Reserves Officer) leaves BC after 9 years, having made an outstanding contribution managing Hampshire’s three BC nature reserves. In December 2020 Fiona Scully is appointed to the role of South Downs Landscape Officer.

2021: NE Hampshire Marsh Fritillary Project receives MOD Sanctuary Award (Highly Commended) in the ‘Environment Protection and Enhancement’ category.

2022: Following recent colonisations, Magdalen Hill Down now records 31 butterfly species annually on the MHD (Original) transect, compared with 26 species in the 1990s. Membership stands at 1,728 addresses (2,281 members).

I think you’ll agree that the Branch has come a long way from its initiation 40 years ago; what’s more, the Branch has been very much at the cutting edge of so much of what the Society has achieved. I’d like to thank you all, as members, for contributing so much to the success of the Branch and the organisation as a whole. With the various pressures the natural world is currently facing, please continue to promote Butterfly Conservation, and all that it does, and encourage others who may be interested in joining. Together we can make Butterfly Conservation and the Branch even stronger than it already is. Your continued support is vital if we are to build on the success already achieved, and so important for the conservation of butterflies, moths and their habitats. If you can offer your services to help with the work we do I’d be very pleased to hear from you.

Andy Barker,
Branch Chairman



Field Trips 2022 – Highlights

The Hampshire programme started in late April in the New Forest with a look at the Emperor Moth, where we saw several fresh males on the heath. Into May, the Duke of Burgundy was seen at two sites visited in one day, Beacon Hill and Stephens Castle Down; we also saw another 14 species of butterfly. One of the best spring field trips was at West Wood, where we counted 25 woodland-dwelling Dukes in a small clearing where they breed on Primrose. Stockbridge Down turned out to be sublime, with another impressive 19 species counted. Cool overcast weather greeted us at Martin Down in the last week of May, but we managed to see our quarry: Marsh Fritillary and Adonis Blue.

*Wall at Shipton Bellinger.
Field trippers at Bentley Wood in May.
All images, Ashley Whitlock*



The summer programme started in Bentley Wood, but we were unfortunate not to see our target species, the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary and the Argent and Sable Moth. However, later in the month the Silver-studded Blue impressed at Broxhead Common. The biggest prize in the field trip calendar, the Purple Emperor, turned in a good performance at West Wood with up to eight individuals being seen, along with Silver-washed Fritillary, White Admiral, and Scarlet Tiger Moth. In the afternoon we were entertained by good counts of Dark Green Fritillary skimming over the tall grasses at Pitt Down. Now we were into a long hot summer and we all sweltered at Pamber Forest although not seeing our quarry, the Purple Emperor. Although hot at Creech Wood, we were luckier and saw the Purple Emperor at one of the assembly points.

West Harting Down was a strenuous walk, but the views and the species count were well worth the effort: we had a good count of Purple Emperor for once, with two on the ground, and an impressive 19 other species recorded. Several field trips had to be re-arranged due to inclement weather after the heatwave. At Shipton Bellinger, the Brown Hairstreak and Wall Brown were counted in good numbers, and at Broughton Down the Silver-spotted Skipper was whizzing about keeping everybody happy.

2022 was a successful year. I would like to thank all of you who came along and hope you will join me again in 2023, my 10th anniversary year of arranging field trips.

**Ashley Whitlock,
Hampshire Field Meetings Organiser**



I first joined Ashley's butterfly field trips last year and was delighted to have spotted 41 of the 46 Hampshire and Isle of Wight species. This season I was lucky enough to see the remaining five on my list. I didn't realise how quickly one would get so totally immersed in watching butterflies – by simply slowing down a little bit, you start to notice these beauties all around you.

I really enjoy the walks. Meeting so many likeminded people and experts on the field trips has greatly increased my knowledge. There have been many highlights, like seeing a Purple Emperor for the first time – it takes ones breath away. Each walk is different and of course, as with anything in nature, you never know what you might spot – nine times out of ten though we have found our target species. Sadly this year we did miss seeing a Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary and I do hope that we have not lost this beautiful species in our home county.

My husband and I travelled to the Isle of Wight in June to spot a Glanville Fritillary. Armed with a copy of *Hampshire & Isle of Wight Butterfly Walks*, we followed route numbers 23 and 25 and did see a couple of faded fritillaries. We were walking along the seafront at Ventnor when a local man approached us and said that he had two Glanvilles mating in his garden above the esplanade – a few minutes later we got to see this pair, what a stunning butterfly and a big thank you to Andy Butler, it made my day.

Ashley mentioned recently that now having found all 46 species I won't need to attend future field trips – well sorry Ashley, but I think you have got me hooked and I will be joining you again next year. A few precious moments spent watching a stunning butterfly, flying or feeding among the flowers, never fails to bring me the greatest of pleasure.

Sheila Williams

Brimstone dance – three males and a female, on Matley Heath. Sheila Williams

Isle of Wight Group

Thankfully, it has generally been a better year so far for butterfly and moth sightings on the Isle of Wight in comparison to 2021. It will be interesting to see the final numbers later in the year, but it appears to have been a good season for the woodland specialists, especially White Admiral and Ringlet. Both generations of Wall have been widely reported with a double-figure count in July during a walk between Blackgang and Gore Cliff.

It does not appear to have been an exceptional year for Glanville Fritillary though. Some reasonable counts at the major sites while once again there seems to be a few satellite sites reported around the Island.



To date, I have only received three reports of Large Tortoiseshell this year. One was seen in Parkhurst Forest on 12 March with another sighting further north in the forest on 21 March. Was this the same individual? No further sightings until a pristine individual was seen in a garden at East Cowes on 30 June. As always with this species, there are doubts whether they are unofficial releases, immigrants from continental Europe or, perhaps, a small breeding population in Parkhurst Forest?

For the second successive year, there have been no reports of White-letter Hairstreak received so far. Unfortunately, I had a house move in the middle of their flight season so I was restricted to two brief visits to their Newport site although not at the best times or weather. Hopefully, next year I can check out more sites with the disease-resistant elms. I would welcome any help monitoring sites!

Speaking of recording, we need some new recorders for the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme in 2023. If you are interested, please contact me for further details.

After adding Ringed Border to the Isle of Wight county moth list last year, there was more exciting news when 13 were recorded at the same site on 18 July so another colonist confirmed breeding on the Island.

At the time of writing in August, it appears to have been a record-breaking year for the number of sightings of Hummingbird Hawk-moth on the Isle of Wight while it also appears to be another good year for Jersey Tiger.

It has been great for the Isle of Wight Group to attend a number of events during the year, and I am always happy to welcome any volunteers who would be interested in helping run the table.

opposite.

Large Tortoiseshell at East Cowes.

Dave Bone

Orache Moth at Haseley Manor.

Iain Outlaw

Hummingbird Hawk-moth.

Rosemary Powell

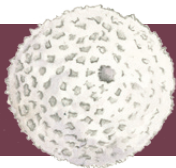


On a sad note, it belatedly came to my attention that John Rowell passed away on 27 November 2021. John was an enthusiastic and experienced surveyor for the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme who covered several transects in Parkhurst Forest and Whippingham Fields from the late 1990s up to 2020. At the time of the 40th anniversary of the scheme in 2016, John had recorded nearly a quarter of a million butterflies from his transects, the most butterflies recorded by any surveyor in the country.

John was also a lovely man who led a number of walks for the Isle of Wight Group over the years and will be much missed by all those who knew him.

Finally, my grateful thanks to Kay and Colin Shaw for organising another successful year of walks.

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



Butterflying Throughout the Year!

As summer draws to a close, many butterfly enthusiasts may dread the long wait until spring returns, when adult butterflies reappear in numbers. However, all is not lost! As we know, each species goes through four stages (egg, caterpillar, chrysalis and adult) and taking an interest in immature stages, especially, can help pass the time and add valuable records to boot.

So, what can we reasonably expect to find in quieter months? First off, it's worth knowing that, of Britain's 59 residents and regular migrants:

- five butterflies overwinter as an adult butterfly (Brimstone, Comma, Peacock, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell).
- nine butterflies overwinter as an egg (Black Hairstreak, Brown Hairstreak, Chalk Hill Blue, Essex Skipper, High Brown Fritillary, Purple Hairstreak, Silver-spotted Skipper, Silver-studded Blue, White-letter Hairstreak).
- 32 butterflies overwinter as a caterpillar (Adonis Blue, Brown Argus, Chequered Skipper, Common Blue, Dark Green Fritillary, Dingy Skipper, Gatekeeper, Glanville Fritillary, Grayling, Heath Fritillary, Large Blue, Large Heath, Large Skipper, Lulworth Skipper, Marbled White, Marsh Fritillary, Meadow Brown, Mountain Ringlet, Northern Brown Argus, Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Purple Emperor, Ringlet, Scotch Argus, Silver-washed Fritillary, Small Blue, Small Copper, Small Heath, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Small Skipper, Speckled Wood, Wall, White Admiral).
- 12 butterflies overwinter as a chrysalis (Cryptic Wood White, Duke of Burgundy, Green Hairstreak, Green-veined White, Grizzled Skipper, Holly Blue, Large White, Orange-tip, Small White, Speckled Wood, Swallowtail, Wood White). Note that the Speckled Wood overwinters as both a larva and pupa and is unique among our butterfly fauna in this regard.
- Clouded Yellow and Painted Lady do not generally overwinter on our shores.

Clearly, some of these species are not found in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and can be dismissed, unless you want to venture further afield, but there are some that we can reasonably expect to find, given enough determination and luck – the examples below are species I will typically look

for in the winter, and which keep me sane! As you glance this list, do bear in mind that you need to look in areas where the butterfly is known to occur (unless you're being particularly adventurous!) and in the right type of habitat – the branch website and the UK Butterflies website can help you with these.

Of the butterflies that overwinter as an adult, the Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell are the easiest to find since they often choose to hibernate in outhouses (such as a pill box or garage) where they are sometimes found in the company of the Herald moth.

Brown Hairstreak is quite predictable in laying, usually singly, their conspicuous white eggs in the forks of young Blackthorn growth which stand out like a sore thumb. Purple Hairstreak typically lay their eggs at the base of an oak bud, on the south side of a tree either on an isolated plant or at the edge of oak woodland. Silver-spotted Skipper also lay white eggs, but on Sheep's-fescue and typically on those plants that grow over bare ground that ensures that their larvae have accelerated development thanks to the resulting higher temperature in such a microclimate. The flying saucer-shaped eggs of White-letter Hairstreak can be found on all species of elm, typically on the girdle scar between the newest growth and the previous year's growth.

Purple Emperor - larva 3rd instar - Wiltshire Wood - 30-Nov-13.

White Admiral - larva 3rd instar - Pamber Forest - 05-Sep-15.

White-letter Hairstreak - ovum - Thatcham - 16-Dec-13.

All images, Pete Eeles

I would contend that caterpillars are the most difficult to find in the quieter months – many will be very small or overwintering at the base of their foodplant. Glanville Fritillary and Marsh Fritillary overwinter in communal webs and can be found with diligence on their respective foodplants of Ribwort Plantain and Devil's-bit Scabious.





Brown Hairstreak - ovum - Thatcham - 10-Oct-15. Pete Eeles

Solitary Purple Emperor larvae can be found on willows, hibernating in the fork of a branch, next to a bud, or in a crevice in the bark. White Admiral caterpillars can also be found in dead and folded Honeysuckle leaves that are still attached to the plant with silk, when most leaves have fallen to the ground.

At good sites, it is possible to find Grizzled Skipper pupae in rolled up leaves of one of the foodplants, such as Wild Strawberry or Agrimony, but my personal 'hit rate' is very low. Although I've looked many times, I've rarely found any Orange-tip pupae on the dead stems of Garlic Mustard (one of their primary larval foodplants, along with Cuckooflower), and have much more success, unsurprisingly, with Large White whose chrysalids can be predictably found under windowsills, fences and other overhangs, near the cabbages or Nasturtiums that they will no doubt have decimated!

The best part of locating immature stages, especially, is that it adds another dimension to butterfly-watching and is something that can be carried on throughout the year. This new perspective was fundamental in my own evolution from photography to ecology and I now get as much pleasure from observing the immature stages as I do the adult butterflies, making my butterfly watching so much more enjoyable.

Pete Eeles

Books

Life Cycles of British and Irish Butterflies

By Pete Eeles

If you've found *Butterflying Throughout the Year!* an interesting read and you are looking for more on the utterly fascinating ecology of butterfly lifecycles, then Peter's marvellous book contains 400 pages of detailed descriptions and over 1,300 high-quality colour photographs of the adult, egg, caterpillar and chrysalis of each of Britain and Ireland's butterfly species.

What may start as a simple hobby of photographing the adult insects can evolve into a deep interest in their immature stages, ecology and conservation, and this book will help you along that path.

Size: 170 x 240mm

Binding: Hardback

Pages: 400

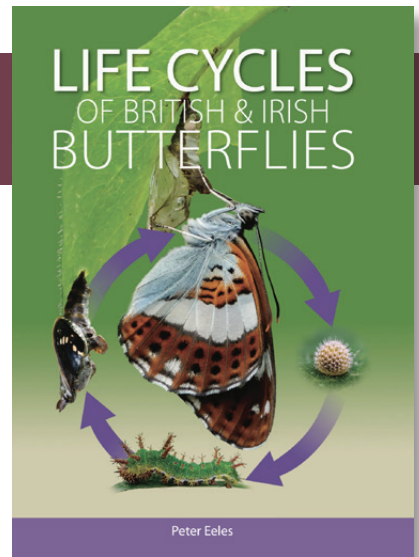
RRP: £35.00

www.butterflylifecycles.com

in a Different Light: Butterflies

By Rosemary Powell

In a different light is a series of books drawing on over forty years of field sketches and paintings created by award-winning wildlife artists Rosemary and Dan Powell. *Butterflies* abounds with many of Rosemary's evocative paintings inspired by numerous seasons spent watching these beautiful insects.



Size: 150 x 150mm Binding: Softback

Pages: 64 RRP: £9.50

www.powellwildlifeart.com

In Praise of Buddleia



I usually have at least one person each year who complains about lack of butterflies on their garden Buddleia. This can be caused by poor and prolonged bad weather during the flowering season but

often there are other reasons. Buddleia is called ‘the butterfly bush’ for good reasons. For many years Dr. Margaret Vickery ran the BC National Garden Butterfly Survey and in her booklet listing the top two hundred butterfly plants for gardens Buddleia is easily at the top, attracting 37 different butterfly species. This list does not differentiate between different varieties of Buddleia and often the poor showing is because just the summer flowering *dauidii* varieties are present. With careful planning the flowering season can be extended from May to November. Two very different early flowering varieties are the yellow *globosa* and the long purple spikes of *alternifolia*. Towards the end of the year yellow *weyeriana* can, in exceptional years, have a few flowers left into early December. Ours always climbs vigorously up an adjoining large pine tree to get more light.

Even with *dauidii* varieties the flowering season can be extended by not pruning back in spring at the same time – leave part of a large specimen for a week or two or, if several are present, prune each at slightly different times. I have also found that many with Buddleias don’t deadhead sufficiently for new growth to appear to extend the flowering period. Ours usually get three or four sessions of deadheading which usually occurs between the second half of July and the middle of August. Buddleia also attracts many other insects, from predatory hornets to the neat segments cut out of leaves by Leaf-cutter Ants. Moths are also attracted, including migratory Silver Y and Hummingbird Hawk-moths and their presence is not just restricted to daylight hours:

Within night’s stillness
Ghost moths on hovering wings
Hunt the perfumed dark.

Richard Stewart

Obituary: Peter Welch



Branch members reading this who joined before 2000 will remember Peter Welch as the Branch Treasurer from 1990 to 2000. Peter, who was our longest serving Treasurer, died in October 2021, and will be sadly missed by all who knew him. We wanted to write a short piece in his memory to highlight his very significant contribution to the work of Butterfly Conservation, and especially Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch.

Prior to membership and subscription payments being co-ordinated centrally through BC Head Office, when Peter took over as Branch Treasurer in 1990 many members paid directly to the Branch. In the January 1991 Branch Newsletter he asked for payment of subscriptions by cash, cheque, postal order or bank standing order. I'm sure you can appreciate the amount of work involved, especially as Hampshire and Isle of Wight was the biggest branch! During his time as Treasurer, he was involved in overseeing the transition whereby all membership subscriptions became centralised through Butterfly Conservation, Head Office. His term in office also coincided with a major period of growth for the Branch, with George Yorke as Vice-Chairman, then Chairman, and the acquisition of three nature reserves (Yew Hill, Magdalen Hill Down and Bentley Station Meadow) from 1990-1992. As Treasurer, Peter worked closely with George dealing with funding applications and the many financial transactions relating to reserves management (fencing, contractors, graziers, etc.).

Peter was committed to the work of Butterfly Conservation, and his warm personality resulted in him working well with all Committee and Branch members. Peter not only looked after the finances, but he and his wife Pam frequently helped out at work parties at Yew Hill and Magdalen Hill Down. From 1993–2007, they also walked a butterfly transect at Crowdhill and Upper Barn Copses, which are adjacent Woodland Trust woods near Bishopstoke.

Andy and Linda Barker



Useful Contacts

www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk



www.facebook.com/ButterflyConservationHampshireAndIsleOfWight



twitter.com/HantsloWBC



www.instagram.com/hampshire_iow_butterflies/

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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 February!

The deadline for the spring Newsletter, edition no. 114, is 10 February 2023

Lepidoptera Tale Piece... your story behind the picture

Returning to the car park at Micheldever Wood around lunchtime having had a pleasant July morning wandering the forest rides, Jan and I were astonished to spot not just one but two male Purple Emperors on the side of an Audi R8. Initially, we approached cautiously, hoping to get a photo of the amazing scene in front of us, but we soon realised that they were so intent on imbibing whatever substance it was on the side of the car that the pair of them ignored us. Some time later the owner of the Audi returned... "Apologies for loitering by your vehicle, but you have something really quite remarkable on the side of it..."

Bryn Jones

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



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Lepidoptera Tale Piece...



*...for the full story, go to the inside back cover.
Vorsprung durch Emperor – Bryn Jones*