

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Branch e-Newsletter

February 2021

Branch Events

To help bring butterflies to a quiet winter in lockdown, Andy Barker has kindly offered to run a series of talks for branch members. The details are below, with a Zoom link to be used to access the talk. The number of people who can attend are limited, so while we welcome members to join in, we ask that the links are not shared more widely please. The four talks (1 hour each) are:

1. Gardening for Butterflies - 7.30-8.45pm Monday 22 February 2021. Zoom link - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82848239758?pwd=SIz3VG9tdGFxZ1hoVXNuVU9JV0kvdz09>

2. The Changing Fortunes of Hampshire's Butterflies - 7.30-8.45pm Wednesday 3 March 2021. Zoom link - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83896461938?pwd=KzJpTzVMRXVuNkNTT2ZIMURWN1I5dz09>

3. Butterflies of the North Atlantic Islands - 7.30-8.45pm Thursday 18 March 2021. Zoom link - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81570532237?pwd=TS9DNUJmdVhNZFpKdzdsOFRCazFpZz09>

4. Butterflies in Art & Books from 1200-1900AD - 7.30-8.45pm Wednesday 31 March 2021. Zoom link - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81790594766?pwd=YVBjZ1hybkq1bVZsZHI5NmtEWGE1Zz09>

You may also be interested in a series of Butterfly ID training sessions which Andy is also leading. Four sessions will focus on the identification of butterflies, which together will cover the 59 native and regular migrant species, as well as two less common migrant species (Large Tortoiseshell & Long-tailed Blue). The final session is an Introduction to Moths. Details can be found on the [Butterfly Conservation website](#).

Help Us Make a Difference

We are very grateful to the members who have come forward to support the branch by filling key committee roles but we are still very much in need of further support in this area. In particular we need help with responding to queries about butterflies from members of the public, helping to organise branch meetings and taking a lead on branch communication and engagement. If you think you can help with any aspect of this, then please contact Andy Barker (aj3barker@btinternet.com) for further details.

Latest Butterfly Species Trend Graphs

A series of graphs showing the 25 year Annual Index trends for all Hampshire & Isle of Wight species (except Essex Skipper) has been added to the [branch website](#) and is well worth a look. The graphs show long-term Hants & Isle of Wight trends compared with national trends, and include graphs with trend lines and linear regression coefficients. For some species, individual site trends are also shown.

2020 Annual Butterfly Report

Thanks to the incredible efforts of Bob Annell and his team, we are pleased to announce that the digital version of the 2020 Annual Butterfly Report is now available on the [branch website](#). As usual, this high quality publication is available as a PDF to view or download before the printed version is sent out in April.

Reserves Update from Fiona Scully

I've recently started my role as South Downs Landscape Officer for BC. This means I'm responsible for managing MHD and Yew Hill nature reserves. A key part of this role is to influence the wider management of the South Downs landscape through working in partnership with other organisations and landowners and delivering collaborative projects.

A lot of ground work is already underway identifying land where we can work with landowners to restore habitat and demonstrate best management, providing more suitable habitat to connect key downland sites. The intention is to strengthen the populations of our highest priority species - namely the Duke of Burgundy, Striped Lynchis, Small Blue and the Adonis Blue - in the Hampshire region. This is building on the great work that's already been achieved by volunteers and keeps us rallying on to safeguard as much land as we possibly can to ensure the survival of our butterflies and their intricate life cycles.

It's frustrating that we've not been able to continue with practical scrub clearance on the reserves this winter. But livestock have now returned to Magdalen Hill Down, the transects should be able to continue and I will definitely need volunteers to help with plant and butterfly surveys on the sites and surrounding area. Please get in touch if you are interested in getting involved - volunteering@butterfly-conservation.org.

Meanwhile, at Bentley Station Meadow, Natural England assessed the condition of the site in the summer and have reported that the Site of Special Scientific Interest is in favourable condition, which is great news. If you have any comments or queries regarding this reserve, please contact Steve Wheatley (swheatley@butterfly-conservation.org)

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