

Butterfly Conservation
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch - 2017 Annual General Meeting
Sunday 19 November 2017
Littleton Memorial Hall

Clive Wood, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Peter Eeles, Bob & Jean Annell, Juliet Bloss and Steve Wheatley.

2. Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting were unanimously confirmed as an accurate record.

Proposed: Mike Berry **Seconded:** Andy Barker

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

4. Presentation of Accounts

Arthur Greenwood presented the accounts for 2016/17. Summary sheets were available at the meeting. The accounts had been independently audited and approved by BC Head Office.

Total income was £54,652 which was £13,786 lower than in 2015/2016. This was because last year the Branch realised investments which brought a one-off gain of £30,490. Excluding investments, total income was up by £16,704. £7,970 of this was due to the timing of grant income receipts. Sales of publications was up £3,931, mostly due to sales of the Butterfly Walks book. Donations were up by £4,304.

Total expenditure was £63,626 (excluding Restricted Funds). This was £13,181 more than in 2015/16. This was partly due to VAT costs which, due to the timing of payment, were attributed to 2016/17 accounts rather than the previous year. The cost of managing the reserves increased by £4,376 mainly due to an increase in conservation work. Expenditure on newsletters was also higher due to the timing of print and postage payments. Year on year this cost was stable.

Designated Fund balances were: Reserves Management £29,276; June Bailey Education Fund £10,547. The Branch is indebted to Ken Bailey who made a further donation of £5,000 to the June Bailey Education Fund. Expenditure against the Reserves Management Fund included £4,705 for Magdalen Hill Down (MHD) fencing replacement and repairs. There was no expenditure against the June Bailey Education Fund in the year.

Ongoing income and expenditure levels are expected to be similar in 2017/18. Further expenditure of the Reserves Management Designated Fund is planned for fencing and footpath repairs at Magdalen Hill Down and for fencing at Yew Hill. Expenditure is planned for the June Bailey Education Fund for the Education Officer, who has now been appointed.

Following a meeting with Julie Williams of Butterfly Conservation, it has been agreed that Head Office will assume responsibility for all the income, expenditure and assets relating to the three Branch reserves from 1st April next year. The cost of managing the reserves substantially exceeds the income received for their management and this change will remove a great deal of financial risk and uncertainty from the Branch. The change will also bring the Branch into line with the financial management of reserves across Butterfly Conservation. The profile of next year's accounts will change as a result.

In response to a question raised by a member, it was agreed that the Memorandum note summarising the Accounts of the Branch for the 2016-2017 should have read as follows: "This year, therefore, we received £8974 less than we spent".

It was proposed that the accounts be formally accepted, and this was carried unanimously.

Proposed: Peter Leversha. **Seconded:** Sue Lambert.

5. Reports for Conservation, Information and Reserves Subcommittees

a) Conservation Subcommittee

Penny Jeffreys, the Chairman of the Conservation Subcommittee, reported on the key activities of the Subcommittee during 2016. The Subcommittee of nine members brings together a breadth and depth of knowledge and experience from across the Branch.

The role of the Subcommittee is to reflect and implement BC's conservation objectives and policies and guide the Branch's conservation work, working with Jayne Chapman (Branch Reserves Officer) to determine and implement conservation initiatives on the Reserves.

Top priorities are:

- Marsh Fritillary. The project to reintroduce this species to sites in north-east Hampshire is progressing well. 300 larvae were collected in September 2016. They emerged in February and fed on 6000 Devils'-bit Scabious plants. Adults emerged in May, laid eggs and there are now c5-7000 larvae. Final instar larvae will be released in Spring 2018, followed by a larger release in Spring 2019.
- Glanville Fritillary. Butterfly Conservation are supporting Andy Butler (Species Champion), Natural England, the National Trust, Isle of Wight Council and Ventnor Council in a partnership to create and restore habitat for this butterfly.
- Fritillaries in the Forest – a project based in the New Forest which Steve Wheatley has been leading, working closely with Bob Annell and many other volunteers to carry out surveys of the area and improve habitat for the Pearl-Bordered and Small Pearl Bordered Fritillaries. Unfortunately, no Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillaries have been found this year, though Pearl-Bordered have benefitted from the work. Penny thanked the volunteers on the project for their support.
- Thames Basin Heaths. This project is being led by Steve Wheatley to improve monitoring and recording of the Silver-Studded Blue and provide advice to landowners in the Thames Basin area. All local Branches have contributed to this truly regional project.
- Duke of Burgundy. Habitat creation work on the Tree and Shrub East area of Magdalen Hill Down continues in preparation for the re-introduction of this butterfly. Dan Hoare (Head of Regions) is seeking the necessary approvals before the re-introduction can take place.

b) Records Subcommittee

Andy Barker presented the report on behalf of Bob Annell (Chair).

The highlights for the year were:

- Transect data for 2017 has been added to the Branch website. New features had been added to the 2016 Butterfly Report including abundance changes to flight period graphs and habitat types for some species.
- Mike Wall has produced an e-report for the 2015 Moth Review. He needs help to verify the thousands of moth records as this is time consuming to do alone. Members were encouraged to contact Mike if they could help.
- The number of day flying moths recorded on transect is increasing. The Subcommittee is looking at the possibility of generating transect trends for certain species, potentially the first branch to do so.
- Wider Countryside Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (WCBS). Jacky Adams is doing a fantastic job of co-ordinating this. Many thanks to all who walk a WCBS square.

- Over 150 transects are now walked in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, and 11 of these were new for 2017. The Branch would like to focus on those species not currently well represented by transects e.g. Silver Studded Blue.
- The Subcommittee has created graphs which compare species trends on Branch reserves with County and National trends.

Bob Annell asks members to please get in touch if they have images they are happy to share with the Branch.

c) Reserves Subcommittee

Penny Jeffreys (member of the Reserves Subcommittee) presented the report on behalf of Jenny Mallett (Chair).

The highlights for the year were:

- The reserves are grazed with a mix of native breeds of cattle, sheep and ponies. This has been the first time the ponies have been on Magdalen Hill Down year-round and they have been very successful. Each species grazes in a slightly different way. Icelandic horses have also been used at Bentley Station Meadow for the first time. Thank you to the volunteers who check the livestock each day.
- The Branch has adopted a Dogs on Leads policy across Magdalen Hill Down. Jayne Chapman (Reserves Officer) has spent a lot of time explaining the reasons for this to dog owners, which has helped the policy to be adopted.
- Jayne has established an assisted support group to help people gain confidence. They meet at Magdalen Hill Down on Mondays. There are currently some spaces available in the group – please see Jayne if you or someone you know is interested.
- Jayne is increasingly working with other branches in the South and as a result is looking for a volunteer ranger for Yew Hill and Bentley Station Meadow. Please speak to Jayne if you are interested.
- Magdalen Hill Down (Original) has seen a 52% increase in butterfly numbers. The Silver Spotted Skipper was recorded on transect on the reserve for the first time this year. Grizzled Skipper had its best ever year. Butterfly numbers on Yew Hill were broadly in line with last year. A female Purple Emperor was seen on Bentley Station Meadow.
- Five moth traps have been done at Magdalen Hill Down over the past year to provide a baseline survey for Countryside Stewardship monitoring. Other species (e.g. bees, birds, reptiles, dormice) are also regularly surveyed.
- Several Educational Access visits were run over the year for children in Key Stages 1-4. As well as educating and inspiring children about butterflies and moths, they also generated income for the Branch.
- An Arable Plants project is being planned with Phil Wilson (a local expert). Some rare arable weeds such as Night Flowering Catchfly and Sharp-leaved Fluellen have been found on the nearby cemetery so it is hoped that some may be found on Magdalen Hill Down once the project has begun.
- Work continues with partners in the local landscape. For example, Jayne recently led some work on the Matterley Estate to provide habitat for Chalkhill Blue and the Striped Lychnis moth.

The Subcommittee would like to thank Jayne Chapman for her extremely hard work and many successes on the reserves this year.

d) Information Subcommittee

Steve Easter, Chairman of the Information Subcommittee, presented the report. The key role of the Information Subcommittee is to communicate and engage with members and non-members of Butterfly Conservation. After thirty years, Juliet Bloss is standing down from the Subcommittee, who are very grateful for her counsel over the years.

Branch Membership (meaning active households) continues to grow, and now stands at 1547, making Hampshire & Isle of Wight the largest branch in Butterfly Conservation. The current Branch membership represents 2107 individuals.

Other highlights:

- The field meetings run by Ashley Whitlock have gone very well this year, with support from many other volunteers.
- The Branch attended ten events this year, requiring 37 volunteer days to support them. Fleet Pond, Romsey Show, Blackmoor Apple Day and the Bentley Show were the highlights of the year.
- Sales of the Butterfly Walks book are still buoyant. We now sell through NHBS which means the number of sales remain high but the amount the Branch receives from each sale is a little lower. However, overall income from books is still high.
- The National Meadows Day on Magdalen Hill Down was not very well attended. This was likely to be partly due to a clash of dates with the Hat Fair in Winchester. Thirty-five people attended. The Big Butterfly Count event two weeks later suffered from poor weather and was even quieter.
- The Subcommittee hopes to make more use of social media and review the events programme before next summer.
- The Branch relies on volunteer support to run. There are currently vacancies for people to check the livestock, on reserves work parties and to help Mike Wall (County Moth Recorder) verify moth records.

Steve explained that sadly he is standing down as Chair of Information Subcommittee. Abby Sullivan will take over as the new Chair.

6. Chairman's Report

Clive Wood began by thanking the Branch committee members, the volunteers who helped on the reserves and Jayne Chapman for all her hard work. He has three ambitions for the Branch:

1. To help recover our threatened species
2. To increase our widespread species
3. To inspire people to understand and contribute to BC's goals.

The decision to transfer financial responsibility for the three reserves from the Branch to Head Office from April next year was an important development. It freed the Branch from a great deal of financial risk and uncertainty and will allow a broader, more conservation-driven agenda to be developed. This will be the focus of a great deal of work over the coming year and will be discussed further at the next Branch AGM.

Turning back to the activities of the Branch over the past year, Clive thanked Ashley Whitlock for leading an excellent walks programme. He also congratulated Kevin Freeborn for his work producing a superb newsletter and to Bob Whitmarsh for his website duties. The Annual Butterfly Report was excellent and the result of a great team effort led by Bob Annell. He is also very proud of the Wild In

Winchester project which started this year and will help to deliver one of the Branch's priorities to inspire future butterfly and moth enthusiasts.

7. Election of Main Committee members

Clive Wood reported that:

- **Arthur Greenwood, Jennifer Mallett and Mike Wall** are standing down from Main Committee and seek re-election in accordance with Butterfly Conservation's rules.
- **Steve Easter and Kate Barrett** have resigned and will not be standing for re-election.

It was agreed to vote on the above re-elections en-bloc. This was passed unanimously.

Proposed: Steve Easter. **Seconded:** Stephen Miles.

- **Abby Sullivan** seeks election as Information Sub-Committee Chair.

Proposed: Mike Wall. **Seconded:** Andy Barker.

8. Health and Safety Matters

None.

9. Any Other Business

None.

The meeting closed at 1.00pm.