

# Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch



Newsletter 102



April 2017



# Butterfly Reserves Walks

## Walks on Magdalen Hill Down

Meet in the gravel car park opposite the cemetery on Alresford Road, B3404. SU512295

- 12 April**      **Meet 2.30pm**  
Leaders: Jenny Mallet and Jayne Chapman – Tel. 01962 808400  
Our first walk of the year to see early butterflies and cowslips.
- 3 May**      **Meet 2.30pm**  
Leaders: Jenny Mallet and Brian Fletcher – Tel. 01962 882746  
Come along to enjoy the butterflies and the spectacular display of cowslips. A leisurely walk with friendly company. All welcome, including dogs on short leads.
- 7 June**      **Meet 2.30pm** Leader: Jayne Chapman – Tel. 01962 808400
- 5 July**      **Meet 11am** Leaders: Jenny Mallet and Brian Fletcher – Tel. 01962 882746
- 2 August**      **Meet 11am** Leaders: Jenny Mallet and Jayne Chapman – Tel. 01962 808400
- 17 August**      **Meet 11am** Leaders: Jenny Mallet and Brian Fletcher – Tel. 01962 882746
- 6 September**      **Meet 11am** Leaders: Jenny Mallet and Brian Fletcher – Tel. 01962 882746

## Big Butterfly Count on Magdalen Hill Down      Meet 11am on both days.

Meet in the gravel car park opposite the cemetery on Alresford Road, B3404, SU512295

- 14 July**      Leaders: Jenny Mallet and Jayne Chapman – Tel. 01962 808400  
Launch of the Big Butterfly Count – come and help us to count butterflies!  
A great time of the year to see the butterflies and the wildflowers at their best.
- 16 July**      Leader: Jayne Chapman – Tel. 01962 808400

## Walks at Bentley Station Meadow

Meet in the Forestry Commission car park off Gravel Hill Road. Leave the A31 east of Bentley, signposted Alice Holt Research Station. Go along Gravel Hill Road, over a railway bridge. The car park is about 500 yards after the bridge on the right. SU802433

- 30 May**      **Meet at 2.30pm**      Leader: Jayne Chapman – Tel. 01962 808400
- 16 June**      **Meet at 2.30pm**      Leader: Arthur Greenwood – Tel. 07920 803900
- 11 July**      **Meet at 11am**      Leader: Jayne Chapman – Tel. 01962 808400  
A good chance to see a Purple Emperor.

## Walks at Yew Hill

Meet at the end of Old Kennels Lane at Junction with Port Lane and Millers Lane, Oliver's Battery, SU451269.

- 11 June**      **Meet at 2.30am**      Leader: Peter Hutchins – Tel. 07895 388378
- 22 July**      **Meet at 2.00pm**      Leader: Brian Fletcher – Tel. 01962 882746  
A good time to see Chalkhill Blue, many other butterflies and lovely wildflowers.



## Chairman's Message

Welcome to the Spring 2017 edition of the Newsletter, my first as Branch Chair. I'm writing this introduction on a cold day in mid-February and am feeling mildly pleased that I have yet to see my first butterfly of the year. Although this probably means that I need to get out more, I also hope it means that the relatively cold winter we have enjoyed will depress the virus, disease and predator load on our over-wintering butterflies and moths, at whatever life stage they are at. Wishful thinking maybe but every grey cloud...

It was good to see a full house at our **Annual General Meeting** last October. Matthew Oates and BC's Senior Regional Officer for Northern Ireland, Catherine Bertrand, both gave excellent talks and we were also pleased to share further information on our project to re-introduce the Marsh Fritillary to sites in north-east Hampshire. We tried several new ideas at the AGM and most seemed to work well: an earlier start and finish, a lunch-break, plant sales and a raffle. The raffle was a particular success and by donating the proceeds to the latest MatchPot Appeal we were able to raise well over £2000 for BC's wider landscape-scale conservation projects. So thank you to all those who donated gifts and bought tickets.

We will keep the same format for this year's AGM which will be held on **Sunday 19 November**. Why this date? We need to give members more time between notification of the meeting in the Autumn newsletter and the AGM itself. We also want to establish the third Sunday of November as something of a "fixed date" for the AGM. Choosing this date avoids half-term holidays, the national BC AGM, Armistice Sunday and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust AGM. Holding the AGM on a Sunday has seen a very substantial increase in attendance over the past two years so I'm looking forward to a bumper attendance this year.

One of my first tasks as Chair should have been to thank **Mike Wall** at the AGM for his stewardship of the Branch over the past three years or so. Mike had to deal with some important and difficult issues during his tenure and did so with calm authority. I am delighted that he is staying on the Main Committee and will remain one of the best County Moth Recorders in the country.

I would also be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to congratulate **Martin Warren** on his retirement from Butterfly Conservation and for the award of an OBE for services to the environment in the last New Year's Honours List. Martin has been a brilliant force for nature conservation over many years. I must also congratulate one of our past Chairs, **Pete Eeles**, on his Marsh Christian Trust award for the Promotion

of Lepidoptera Conservation at BC's recent AGM in Nottingham. This is wonderful recognition of Pete's contribution to a range of projects including the excellent UK Butterflies website and his work on the **Garden Butterfly Survey** website. Please do sign up to the new online garden survey and help us monitor changes in the abundance and distribution of our garden butterfly species:

<https://web69.securesecure.co.uk/gardenbutterflysurvey.org/index.php>

My final thank you is to **Dr Andy Barker** for his superb contribution to the work of the Branch for well over 30 years. Andy stood down from the Main Committee at the AGM. The good news is that he remains very actively involved in our Conservation and Records Sub-committees, with the Marsh Fritillary project, with the management of our reserves, and with BC nationally. Andy mentored my involvement with Butterfly Conservation in 2010 and I owe him a personal debt of gratitude.

Enough looking back, what does the coming year hold? Ashley Whitlock has once again put together an excellent **Field Trips** programme for 2017. If you are one of the 500 new members who have joined the Branch over the past 3 to 4 years I would like to extend a particular welcome and encourage you to join one of our Field Trips or **Reserve Walks** detailed in the newsletter. They are very friendly affairs and a great way to meet fellow members. I am also keen to hear from newer members about anything you would like the Branch to do that we are not already doing. Please drop me an email or call, it would be good to hear from you.

Looking at our **Events programme** for the coming year, please pop into our display stand at the **Fleet Pond Wildlife Day** on Sunday 4 June. We are also excited to team up with our good friends at Plantlife to promote **National Meadow Day** at our Magdalen Hill Down reserve on **Saturday 1 July**. Make a note in your diaries and look out for further details on the website and our Branch Round-Up e-letter.

The weather may be cold now but I'm looking forward to a great butterfly and moth season. We are cracking on with finding the money to support our ambitious education programme for children in Key Stages 1 to 4. The Sword of Damocles has been lifted from the various EU directives that make such a difference to the protection of our wildlife and my local MP knows he will not be able to count on my vote if Brexit means "Bodge-it" for nature. Our reserves are in great shape, our work is making a difference to our butterflies and moths and our members are all entirely wonderful!

Optimistic? Why not?

*Clive Wood, Chair*

# Events and Shows Programme 2017

Please check the Branch website [www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk](http://www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk) for further information and for confirmation, nearer the time, that each event is going ahead.

- 4 June**                    **Fleet Pond Wildlife Day**  
11:00am to 3:00pm; Organiser – Richard Lemon
- 11 June**                   **Hampshire Garden Festival, Bere Mill, Whitchurch**  
10:00am to 4:00pm; Organiser – Clive Wood
- 1 July**                     **National Meadow and Family Fun Day at Magdalen Hill Down**  
10:00am to 4:00pm; Organiser – Clive Wood
- 15 July**                   **Big Butterfly Count at Magdalen Hill Down**  
Start 11:00am; Organiser – Jayne Chapman
- 15 and 16 July**       **Big Butterfly Count at New Forest Wildlife Park**  
10.00am to 4.00pm; Organiser – Bob Annell
- 4 August**                **Family Butterfly Day at Hillier Gardens, Romsey**  
Start 10am; Organiser – Linda Barker
- 5 or 6 August**        **Butterfly Transect Teach-in, near Basingstoke**  
Details TBA; Organiser – Linda Barker
- 2 September**        **Test Valley Wood Fair, Chandler’s Ford**  
9:30am to 4:00pm; Organiser – Andy barker
- 9 September**        **Romsey Show, Broadlands, Romsey**  
8:30am to 6:00pm; Organiser – Clive Wood
- 17 September**      **Lymington Reserves Open Day**  
Organiser – Bob Annell
- 8 October**             **Blackmoor Apple Day, near Liss**  
10.00am to 5:00pm; Organiser – Clive Wood
- 19 November**      **Branch AGM at Littleton Village Hall**  
11:30 to 5:00pm; Organisers – Clive Wood and Mary Macmillan

*Clive Wood, Chair*



## Reserves News

Today the sun is shining brightly as if on a promise to deliver spring along with this edition of the newsletter. Let's hope so. Despite a dry winter, I seem to have felt wetter and colder than previous years, but having said that, the work-parties over the winter have been a great success and very well attended. We have been fortunate to have had a few new recruits this season, bringing as they do a combination of new skills and joie de vivre.



*Green Hairstreak.  
Rosemary Powell*

We have tackled everything that managing nature reserves entails such as scrub clearing, tree popping, clearing the diagonal path, reducing and crown lifting a mature Birch tree on the Original downland, and improving habitat for the possible future introduction of Duke of Burgundy to Magdalen Hill Down. This particular area benefited from capital works under the new Countryside Stewardship scheme that MHD entered into in January 2016. This scheme allowed for the installation of a water trough to enable pulse grazing by cattle or ponies, and has recently been grazed for the first time since the branch took over the management in 2003. It is a good place to see Green Hairstreak.

Despite my expectations that last year would be good for Gatekeeper (based on casual observations), it still wasn't quite what I had predicted, although this species still ranked 3rd place across 130 Hampshire transects. Grizzled Skipper held the No.1 spot on transect at MHD (Original), which is excellent news and shows that the species responded favourably to targeted habitat management over the winter months.

MHD has many of the Grizzled Skipper food-plants which include Agrimony, Creeping Cinquefoil, Wild Strawberry, Salad Burnet and Bramble – all of which grow in the preferred habitat conditions of unimproved chalk grassland, encompassing glades and clearings. Caterpillar food-plants feature regularly in our reserves management, and it is good to see Small Tortoiseshell larvae on the stands of nettles that we purposely leave for this species. The Butterfly Report has a full update and breakdown on how the butterflies fared in 2016 on our Hampshire reserves.

## Grazing News

2016 saw the arrival of five semi-feral Exmoor ponies, a hardy breed, and said to be the oldest native breed of British pony. After World War II, due to a number of maltreatments including, horrifically, army target practice and slaughter for meat, numbers dwindled to just 50 registered Exmoor ponies (making them rarer than the Giant Panda is today). They are still classed as 'endangered' by the Rare Breeds Survival Trust. Their natural characteristics enable them to survive hostile weather, subsisting on poor forage and the ability to graze year-round maintaining good body condition without supplementary feeding and with little intervention from us. The winter coat grows in two layers - light, dense and fluffy, the under coat is a bit like thermal underwear with a second, coarser layer, or raincoat on top.



*Enjoying the January rays. Jayne Chapman*

They readily tackle the invasive coarse grasses, thistle, clematis and hawthorn that threaten biodiversity, beating their way through dense scrub and bramble, whilst opening up the sward with their small, hard and sharp hooves. Intelligent, inquisitive and able to fend for themselves, Exmoor ponies are popular with site visitors and conservation managers alike and are an excellent choice in conservation grazing projects on Exmoor, North Yorkshire, Sussex, Wiltshire, and more recently in Durham for a project involving the Durham Wildlife Trust.



*Robert drinking from the recently funded trough. Jayne Chapman*

We also trialled a small herd of Icelandic horses at Bentley Station Meadow, kindly provided by one of our newest members, Jane Stone, who lives close to the reserve. Another ancient hardy breed, the Icelandic is thought to have been isolated from the influences of other breeds for over 800 years, and is the descendant of the Mongolian horse. One of the most fascinating features of the Icelandic horse is its extreme genetic purity, which is protected by laws passed in 982AD prohibiting the importation of foreign horses into the country to prevent disease. This law is still in effect, so no horse (even those used in competition) that leaves Iceland can ever return.

## Skylarks and Striped Lychnis

The Skylark continues to be a success story at Magdalen Hill Down, with the total area of potential suitable nesting habitat on MHD estimated at 75 ha. Nest density in this range favours very well with known densities elsewhere in managed grassy habitats. It's probable that more than 8 pairs of birds successfully nest over the season (*D. Stewart, 2015*).



*Striped Lychnis larva  
on Dark Mullein.  
Jayne Chapman*

Another highlight of the year was the Striped Lychnis *Cucullia lychnitis* project. 2016 was a seemingly poor year in the southern part of its distribution, but it bounced back along certain roadsides in the Winchester area, following drastic management undertaken by Butterfly Conservation with funding through a landfill tax grant from Veolia. In Hampshire a minimum of 219 larvae were recorded from a minimum of 1,583 Dark Mullein plants, with the larvae recorded from four of the six 10km squares searched. However, the bulk of the larvae were found in two areas, both of which were large stretches of the road verge that had scrub removed and nutrient rich soil buried to leave the chalky soil exposed.

Here, Dark Mullein was also seeded to supplement any existing plant/seeds already in the area. At one of these sites 33 larvae were found on just over 500 plants on 26 July; this is thought to be the highest count of larvae here since 2003. This success was surpassed at a nearby site where 158 larvae were found on 166 Dark Mullein plants in and around the habitat creation area (*excerpt taken from BC's E-moth updates*).

Look out for the new and innovative 'Text to Donate' signs across the reserves, which allow for a one-off donation of £3.00 from a mobile phone.



*Text to donate signs on the reserves. Jayne Chapman*

We are looking forward to seeing old and new faces alike at our planned walks and events across our reserves this summer. Please do email me if you would like to be involved, from providing photos for our social media pages to checking livestock and much more.

***Jayne Chapman, Reserves Officer***



## Marsh Fritillary Re-introduction

I am pleased to report that the pre-hibernation Marsh Fritillary larvae taken under licence from six donor sites across Dartmoor have safely survived the winter. The larvae were distributed between three breeders in Salisbury, Romsey and Radnage last September and almost immediately formed winter hibernacula webs. All three breeding groups emerged during the mild sunny weather seen in the week commencing 13 February.



*Two of the 12 breeding cages we have commissioned. [Hilliers 17 Feb 2017].  
Tim Bernhard*



*[Hilliers 17 Feb 2017].  
Tim Bernhard*

This photograph shows the Romsey larvae emerging to bask on their hibernacula web. The black colouration is thought to be an evolutionary adaptation to aid growth by absorbing energy from the sun more efficiently. This aids digestion as they resume feeding on Devil's-bit Scabious.

*Clive Wood,  
Hampshire Marsh Fritillary Action Group*



## Branch News

### New Chair of Information Sub-committee

I am delighted to inform members that Steve Easter has kindly agreed to become Chair of the Branch Information Sub-committee in succession to myself. Steve will therefore lead the team of volunteers we have in place who manage our communications with members, non-members and Head Office. This includes newsletters, publicity, the Branch website, membership and, over time, our events and displays. Steve has been a great supporter of the Branch for several years with his wife Gwen and is a regular on conservation work parties and events. With his knowledge of the French language he will also be able to personally welcome long-awaited migrants from France such as the Long-tailed Blue as and when they finally take up residency on these shores.

*Clive Wood*

### New Members

A big, bright butterfly welcome to all our new members. We look forward to seeing you on some of the reserve walks, Hampshire and Isle of Wight field trips and events organised by the Branch.

Dr J Clarke, Crawley  
Miss R Cox, Fareham  
Mr D Smith, Southampton  
Mrs L Savage, Basingstoke  
Mrs J & Mr A Childs, Basingstoke  
Mr A & Mrs A Ailes, Southampton  
Mrs S & Mr I Street & Family, Southampton  
Mr M Millen, Southampton  
Mrs J Corden, Lymington  
Mr D Franklyn & Mrs J Morris, Ventnor  
Mr G Bailey, Southampton  
Mrs V & Mr M Spencer, Alton  
Mrs S Aiken, Hindhead  
Mrs E S & Mr V Edberg, Petersfield  
Mrs R Frith, Havant  
Mr S & Mrs J England, Waterlooville  
Mrs L & Mr M Haskell & Family, Southampton  
Miss A Collier & Mr M Whitney, Andover  
Mr D Beesley, Bordon  
Mr D Hurton, Basingstoke  
Mrs P & Mr M Earwicker, Fleet  
Miss R Irving, Winchester  
Mr M Walford, Waterlooville

Mr J & Mr S Cook & Family, Southampton  
Mrs L Ryves, Southampton  
Miss S Golding, Basingstoke  
Mrs D & Mr C Glenn, Gosport  
Ms J Griffiths, Alton  
Mrs W Isaacson, Ryde  
Mrs R Vidgen, Winchester  
Mrs A McMeehan Roberts, Petersfield  
Miss A Wilgoss & Mr C Elton & Family, Fordingbridge  
Mrs F & Mr M Martin, Tadley  
Miss J Barnes, Winchester  
Mrs L Gale, Romsey  
Mr H K Smith & Ms S Lewis, Gosport  
Mr S Harwood, Stockbridge  
Mr P G Richards, Wokingham  
Mrs L Deavin, Sandhurst  
Mrs A Cunnington, Southampton  
Miss T Standish, Southampton  
Mrs P Matthews, Tadley  
Mrs H & Mr G Griffith, Romsey  
Miss S Southgate, Hayling Island  
Mrs J Vallis, Basingstoke

Mrs S Douglas, Romsey  
Mrs S Child, Eastleigh  
Miss A Morgan, Oakley Village  
Mrs D Vidler, Emsworth  
Mrs S Hamilton-Dyer, Southampton  
Mr D Thornton, Southampton  
Mrs G MacLennan, Farnborough  
Mr I Hampshire, Alton  
Mr S Lockett, Sandown  
Miss S Selkirk, Southampton  
Miss S Egger, Waterlooville  
Mrs A Judd, Southampton  
Mrs T Carter Hedley, Farnborough  
Mrs D Stevenson, Winchester  
Mr D & Mr K Lay, Southampton  
Mr S Buglar, Southampton  
Mr S Day, Farnborough  
Mr T M Rogers, Romsey  
Mr G Rogers, Lymington  
Miss J Kidby, Southampton  
Mr J Wines, Fordingbridge  
Mrs B Lovell, Southampton  
Miss S Rogers, Yateley  
Mr K Domone, Southampton  
Mrs B Child, Southampton  
Mr R & Mrs S Buxton, Cowes  
Mr P Baines, Liss  
Mrs M Boswell, Lyndhurst  
Mrs L Cook, Eastleigh  
Mrs R & Mr D Halliday & Family, Southampton  
Miss L Harman, Southampton  
Mr A Hagan, Shanklin  
Mrs R Jones, Ringwood  
Miss R Williams, Fleet  
Mrs B Brett, Ringwood  
Miss H Scully, Southampton  
Mrs J & Mr C Turrell & Family, Waterlooville  
Mrs C Thomas, Gosport  
Mrs E Meech, Southampton  
Mrs M Griffin, Emsworth  
Mrs V Wood, Portsmouth  
Mr R Churton, Southampton  
Mrs J Morris, New Milton  
MRS S & Mr D K Olson & Family, Liphook  
Mr T Woolman, Alton  
Mrs G Haywood, Andover  
Miss L Bridgeman, Basingstoke  
Miss I Taylor, Southsea  
Miss D Allan, Southampton  
Mrs W & Mr B Molyneaux, Southampton  
Mrs H Horwell, Winchester  
Mrs S Handa, Alton

Mr R & Mrs V Bloom, Gosport  
Mrs Y C Syms, Waterlooville  
Mrs S Palmer, Bordon  
Mr P Simpson, Lymington  
Ms E Griffin, Portsmouth  
Mrs J Bates, Winchester  
Mr B L Foster, Southampton  
Mrs C Haughton, Winchester  
Mrs S Coombes, Southampton  
Mrs L Green, Newbury  
Mrs J Probert, Portsmouth  
Mrs J Stone, Bordon  
Mr R Gibbs & Ms Y Palmer, Petersfield  
Mr J Coomber, Winchester  
Mr R B Deason & Miss A Tanner, Aldershot  
Mr G Fish, Bracknell  
Miss C A Marshall, Southampton  
Mrs K Crowhurst, Shanklin  
Mr R S Leech, Andover  
Mr D C Phillips, Waterlooville  
Mr M Dewey, Winchester  
Miss A Tribe, Bordon  
Mrs E J & Mr G Loader, Farnborough  
Ms J Carter, Alton  
Ms S Sheridan, Bordon  
Mr R Pena, Basingstoke  
Mr E Matthews, Stockbridge  
Mrs T & Mr N Wood & Family, Eastleigh  
Mrs V Tavener, Waterlooville  
Mr B & Mrs C Shorter, Winchester  
Mrs L & Mr R Perry, Lee-on-the-Solent  
Mr N Horner, Salisbury  
Mrs B Close, Newport  
Mrs J A Gower, Southampton  
Mr W Hellier, Eastleigh  
Ms C Lloyd Williams, Basingstoke

***Sharron Broadway, Membership Secretary***





# Branch Photographic Competition Results

What a wonderfully colourful and varied selection of photographs at the 2016 Branch AGM, and well done and thank you to all those that entered to make it such a well-supported competition. We want to encourage even more entrants this year, so keep your camera close by on your travels.

## UK Butterflies

- 1st Richard Coomber, Mating Silver-studded Blues
- 2nd Gillian Pullinger, Purple Emperor
- 3rd Sue Lambert, Green-veined White

## UK Moths

- 1st Juliet Bloss, Oak Beauty
- 2nd Richard Coomber, Hummingbird Hawk-moth
- 3rd Kelvin Richards, Forester



*Oak Beauty.*  
*Juliet Bloss*

## Immature stages

- 1st Gillian Pullinger, Vapourer
- 2nd Ken Bailey, Swallowtail
- 3rd Andrew Brown, Swallowtail

## Overseas butterflies and moths

- 1st Ken Bailey, Spanish Moon Moth\*
- 2nd Ken Bailey, Little Tiger Blue
- 3rd Sharron Broadway, A Vietnamese selection

## First time entrants

- 1st John Stacey, Brimstones
- 2nd Tracy Piper, Green Hairstreak
- 3rd Tracy Piper, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary

\*Overall competition winner; see the back cover of this newsletter.



## Butterfly Recording 2017

It is always difficult to know what to write for the Spring Newsletter, issued as it is at the same time as the Annual Butterfly Report which contains all the information and supporting statistics.

Our Records Sub-committee has increased in number from four to seven with representation for Transects, Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey, Moths and Data Management.

You will notice that the Annual Butterfly Report is becoming more records based. If you have any butterfly articles of general interest, it would be good to see them in future Newsletter editions.

This year some of the maps have geological overlays for the chalk species, also included is a map showing strategically selected towns and villages which we hope will help you in locating the tetrad information. This map also shows the major Vice Counties.

A few new report writers this year – I hope you agree they have done a great job!

Although there were no Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary recorded in the New Forest Inclosures last year, we are looking for volunteers to help search again during their flight period in 2017, albeit at a reduced intensity. If anyone feels they are able to help with this activity on a rota basis, please contact me.

Whilst all of your records are very much appreciated, we would like to encourage greater coverage of the high priority species. Perhaps a trip to the Isle of Wight during the Glanville Fritillary flight period or a walk along the sea wall between Lymington & Keyhaven to search for the elusive Wall?

Maybe there are areas to explore where Duke of Burgundy, Small Blue, Silver-studded Blue or White-letter Hairstreak could possibly be present?

Please remember that sightings reported in the News section of our website are not transferred to the county database so your records need to be formally submitted by completing the Branch Spreadsheet, entering on Living Record or iRecord or via a MapMate sync to me (CUK cyb).

***Bob Annell,  
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Butterfly Recorder***



# Butterfly Transects

We have 140 transects in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight; the most of any branch. We are always looking for additional volunteers, including help with walking some existing transects, resurrecting two lapsed transects, and starting some new ones.

## Help with existing transects

The first three are organised by Kelvin Richards. If you think you can help with any of these please contact Kelvin, **email: [junctionfive@gmail.com](mailto:junctionfive@gmail.com)**

**1 Foxlease Meadows North** MoD land, managed by HloWWT, near Junction 4a of M3. A rather strenuous walk (4.39km, 2.73miles round trip) over uneven terrain, damp in some parts and there may be cattle present.

**2 College Copse** HloWWT farm near Hook, with grassland and woodland. Involves climbing over a five-barred gate twice and there may be cattle present. Woodland stretch can be hard to follow. Actual transect is 2.04km/1.27miles but closer to 3.23km/2.00miles round trip from car park.

**3 Bentley Station Meadow** Our own reserve next to Bentley Station with neutral grassland and scrub, damp in one section, easy walking. Round trip from car park 3.09km, 1.92miles.

There are two further transects for which help is required. If these appeal, please contact Linda Barker, **email: [lindabarker4@btinternet.com](mailto:lindabarker4@btinternet.com)**

**4 Claylands** North of Bishops Waltham, 1.4km in length, easy walking, neutral grassland.

**5 Wick Wood** North-east of Selborne, 3.1km in length, easy walking, woodland.

## Help with lapsed transects

Both sites owned by the National Trust; contact Linda Barker if you can help.

**6 Ludshott Common** West of Grayshott, route to be re-established, heathland.

**7 Conford Moor** North-west of Liphook, route to be re-established, wet meadow, scrub and woodland.

## Help with new transects (routes to be established)

In addition to the above we have 30 strategic locations for new transects. These are to fill geographic gaps, particularly in north Hampshire, but also for species currently under recorded on transects in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Rather than list all 30 sites here, we are promoting five we hope to start this year. For offers of help with these and to find out whether any of the others are near you, please contact Linda Barker.

**8 Froyle** (Rye Bridge Circuit) north-east of Alton

**9 Yatley Common**

**10 Whitchurch 'Mill Trail'**

**11 Grange Chine**, south of Brighstone, Isle of Wight

**12 Freshwater Bay** (east), Isle of Wight

*Linda Barker*



# Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey

## Help Wanted

The WCBS is a national scheme designed to monitor how butterflies are faring across the whole country. It does this by carrying out 'light touch' transect type walks on randomly selected 1 kilometre squares. Because they are randomly selected the squares can fall anywhere and cover both countryside and more urban areas. This Branch is currently responsible for monitoring over 30 squares and has recently been allocated some new squares to cover. More help is needed to cover all these squares. It is an ideal opportunity if you are interested in getting involved in recording butterflies but don't have the time to commit to a weekly transect.

Unlike transects, only two walks are required each year - one in July and one in August, with at least a ten day gap between walks. If you are keen and the site ownership allows for it, walks can also be undertaken in spring months. In other respects the walks follow the same approach as for transects in that they must be done between 10.45am and 3.45pm on days when the weather is suitable for butterflies - essentially when it is warm, dry, not too windy and hopefully sunny! All recording is along two, one kilometre routes, although sometimes further walking is required to get to and from your car and to walk between the two routes.

The following squares are currently in need of 'owners' to undertake the walks:

**SU4613:** Harefield, Southampton - a new square through a housing estate that has some woodland and grassy areas.

**SU5616:** Bishop's Waltham - a new square just to the south of The Moors Nature Reserve.

**SU6231:** Ropley Dean - an existing route along roads between Bishop's Sutton and Ropley Dean.

**SZ2598:** Broadley, New Forest - a new route across heathland between Broadley Inclosure and Tiptoe.

**SZ4587:** Apesdown, Isle of Wight - an existing route to the west of Carisbrooke.

In addition, while not part of the WCBS scheme, the National Trust is looking for a volunteer to carry out a similar approach to monitoring butterfly numbers on their land near Hinton Ampner (SU6026). The Trust is looking for this square to be walked 4 to 6 times a year.

If you are interested in getting involved in monitoring any of these squares, please contact Jacky Adams: email [jacky.adams@btinternet.com](mailto:jacky.adams@btinternet.com), tel. 023 8081 3671.

More information about the national scheme can be found at: [butterfly-conservation.org/113/Wider-CountrysideButterflySurvey.html](http://butterfly-conservation.org/113/Wider-CountrysideButterflySurvey.html)

*Jacky Adams,  
WCBS Champion, Hampshire and Isle of Wight*



# 2017 Field Trips Programme Hampshire

The Branch is grateful to the site owners/managers of the nature reserves visited for maintaining public access and safeguarding these very special places of wildlife interest. The grid reference given is for the parking location/meeting point.

**Sunday 30 April, meet at 10:30am**

**Park Hill, East Meon (SU677222)**

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

*Directions:* Park Hill is the prominent chalk summit behind East Meon church. Meet in the car park off Workhouse Lane at the western end of the village.

*Aiming to see:* early butterflies and invertebrates, plus good raptor watching.

**Sunday 7 May, meet at 10:30am**

**Ramsdean Down (SU711200)**

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

*Directions:* **This is a strenuous walk with some very steep slopes (not recommended for vertigo sufferers) and uneven ground**, taking in a few good Duke of Burgundy colonies. Meet in the hilltop car park at Butser Hill (Pay and Display).

*Aiming to see:* Duke of Burgundy, Grizzled and Dingy Skipper, Red Kite.

**Saturday 13 May, meet at 10:30am**

**Small Down (SU676190)**

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

*Directions:* Meet at the Sustainability Centre car park [www.sustainabilitycentre.org](http://www.sustainabilitycentre.org) (ex HMS Mercury). There is a walk from here along the South Downs Way to Small Down. There's a five-bar gate to negotiate to enter the site. This is a lesser-known downland site, close to Butser Hill, with potential for Duke of Burgundy.

*Aiming to see:* Grizzled and Dingy Skipper and possible Duke of Burgundy.

**Sunday 14 May, meet at 10:30am**

**Stockbridge Down (SU375346), 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. Meet at the main NT car park on the south side of the road.

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

**Saturday 20 May, meet at 10:30am**

**Old Winchester Hill (SU645214), site: Natural England**

In association with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

*Leader:* Brian Fletcher, Tel: 01962 882746

*Directions:* Meet in the nature reserve's car park, which is signposted off the A32 at Warnford. Organised by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, please contact Mary on 01962 864440 or Brian on 01962 882746 for further details. Sorry, no dogs. Donations invited. Bring a packed lunch.

*Aiming to see:* Spring butterflies and chalk downland flora and fauna.

**Saturday 27 May, meet at 10:30am**

**Kitts Grave and Martin Down (SU036200), site: Natural England**

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

*Directions:* Meet in the nature reserve's main car park, off the A354, 11 miles south-west of Salisbury. This national nature reserve is a large tract of open chalk grassland with many species of wildflowers, butterflies and moths. Bring lunch. We may well look for Duke of Burgundy near to the reserve's other car park in the afternoon.

*Aiming to see:* Adonis Blue, Small Blue, Duke of Burgundy and Burnt-tip Orchid.

**Sunday 28 May, meet at 10:30am**

**Bentley Wood (SU258291), site: Trustees of Bentley Wood**

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

*Directions:* Meet at Bentley Wood car park, 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. Good invertebrates and birdlife. Bring lunch.

*Aiming to see:* Pearl-bordered and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Argent and Sable Moth.

**Saturday 10 June, meet at 10:30am**

**Old Burghclere Lime Quarry (SU469578), site: HLOWWT**

In association with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

*Leader:* Mervyn Grist, Tel: 01264 358737

*Directions:* Meet in the old station farmyard to left of gate, reached by a rough lane, south off minor road through Old Burghclere between the manor house and old railway bridge. The large quarry is a short walk away. Donations invited.

*Aiming to see:* Small Blue, Grizzled Skipper and Wood Tiger Moth.

**Saturday 24 June, meet at 10:30am**

**Broxhead Common (SU803373), site: HCC Local Nature Reserve**

*Leader:* Arthur Greenwood, Tel: 01428 604730; Mobile: 07920 803900

*Directions:* Meet in the layby on the B3004, Broxhead Farm Road, just north of Bordon.

*Aiming to see:* Silver-studded Blue and other heathland flora and fauna.

**Sunday 25 June, meet at 10:30am – Caterpillar Hunt**

**Butser Hill (SU711200), 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). A successful and popular field trip in 2015 and 2016 seasons, and let's see if we can do even better this year. Very steep in places. Bring lunch.

*Aiming to see:* Dark Green Fritillary, Small Heath, Brown Argus and Green Hairstreak.

**Saturday 1 July, meet at 10:30am**

**Hawkhill Inclosure and Hatchet Moor (SU350019), site: Forestry Commission**

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

*Directions:* Meet in the Hawkhill Inclosure Forestry Commission car park, off the B3055, west of Hatchet Pond between Brockenhurst and Beaulieu. A wonderful walk around one of the best parts of the New Forest, encompassing coppiced woodland and heathland.

*Aiming to see:* Dark Green Fritillary, Silver-studded Blue and Clouded Buff.

**Sunday 9 July, meet at 10:30am**

**Havant Thicket and Southleigh Forest (SU723102), site: Forestry Commission**

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

*Directions:* Meet at Havant Thicket car park, signed as the 'Forest of Bere', off the B2149 on the western outskirts of Rowland's Castle.

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

**Saturday 15 July, meet at 10:30am**

**Abbotstone Down (SU584360)**

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

*Directions:* Meet at the Abbotstone Down and Oliver's Battery Settlement car park signposted off the B3047, north of New Alresford and south-east of Swarraton. An old field trip favourite with woodland and chalk grassland flora and fauna. Bring lunch.

*Aiming to see:* Marbled White, Dark Green Fritillary and, possibly, Purple Emperor.

**Sunday 16 July, meet at 10:30am**

**West Wood, Crab Wood and Pitt Down (SU420292),**

**site: Forestry Commission and HCC**

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

*Directions:* Meet in Spindle Trees car park, signed off Sarum Road on Pitt Down, one of several Farley Mount Country Park car parks. Bring lunch. In the morning we will circumnavigate West Wood and look in on Crab Wood, and walk on Pitt Down in the afternoon.

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

**Sunday 23 July, meet at 10:30am**

**Broomy Inclosure and Broomy Plain (SU199104),**

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

*Directions:* Meet in car park signed off track to the High Corner Inn, off the lane north-east from Linwood, New Forest.

*Aiming to see:* Grayling, Dark Green Fritillary, Small Heath and Clouded Buff Moth.

**Saturday 29 July, meet 10:30am**

**St Catherine's Hill (SU487281), site: HLOWWT**

**In association with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust**

*Leader:* Brian Fletcher, Tel: 01962 882746

*Directions:* Meet in Parking Area G of the St Catherine's Park and Ride (parking charge applies, or use the park and ride bus); postcode SO23 9BN. Organised by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, please contact Mary on 01962 864440 or Brian on 01962 882746 for further details. Sorry, no dogs. Donations invited. Bring a packed lunch.

*Aiming to see:* High-summer chalk downland flora and fauna.

**Sunday 30 July, meet at 10:30am**

**West Harting Down (SU739156),**

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

*Directions:* Meet in the lane just over the railway bridge east of Charlton village. 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. In the 2015 season Purple Emperors were seen at least twice on two occasions, and there's plenty of interest for the wildflower connoisseur. Buddleias on the ride side verges were packed with Comma, Peacock and Small Tortoiseshells in 2015.

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

**Saturday 5 August, meet at 10:30am**

**Shipton Bellinger (SU229456),**

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

*Directions:* Meet at the Village Hall car park off Bulford Road, accessed from the A338 Shipton Bellinger/Tidworth road, north from the A303.

*Aiming to see:* Brown Hairstreak.

**Sunday 6 August, meet at 10:30am**

**Sinah Warren (SZ697995),**

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

*Directions:* On Hayling Island, drive south along the A3023 to the last roundabout before the beach, go right following signs to Hayling Golf Club/Sinah Warren, and park opposite the holiday village on Ferry Road. An area of scrubby oak where observations of Purple Hairstreak should be easy.

*Aiming to see:* Purple Hairstreak, possibly Grayling.

**Saturday 26 August, meet at 10:30am**

**Noar Hill (SU737321), site: HIOWWT**

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

*Directions:* Meet by the access track to Charity Farm. Verge parking with polite consideration – *avoid blocking farm access* – by Charity Farm on the lane south from Selborne.

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

**Saturday 2 September, meet at 10:30am**

**Old Winchester Hill (SU645214), site: Natural England**

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

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

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

**Field trips are for everyone.** Rough terrain over fields and woods could, most regrettably, make access impossible for some people with mobility issues. Please check with the leader if in doubt. 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!**

If the weather looks inclement then please phone the leader of the field trip advertised. I will change the date of my field trips if the 5-day forecast suggests the weather is going to be wet and windy, so look out for this on the Branch website and on the Hampshire Butterfly Facebook page.

***Ashley Whitlock, Field Trips Organiser***

*Tel: 02392 731266*

*Mobile: 07752 812340*

*e-mail: ashleyrwhitlock@virginmedia.com*



*Red Admiral. Rosemary Powell*



## 2017 Field Trips Programme Isle of Wight

**Tuesday 18 April**, meet at 7:30pm

**Windy Gap, St Catherine's Point (SZ494758)**; site: National Trust

*Leader:* James Halsey, Email: jameshalsey1@hotmail.co.uk

*Directions:* Meet at the National Trust car park at the end of Old Blackgang Road. If the weather is bad on the day, this event will be rescheduled for 19, 20 or 21 April. Please contact James.

*Aiming to see:* Moth trapping and search for Sloe Carpet Moth (not yet recorded from this site).

**Thursday 25 May**, meet at 10:30am

**Compton Chine, (SZ367854)**; site: National Trust

*Leader:* Sue Davies, Tel: 07702 151312

*Directions:* Meet in the National Trust Afton Down chalk-pit car park off the A305 Military Road. On the No. 12 bus route. Some steep steps and uneven ground so wear sturdy footwear. Note that if the weather is bad on the day, this walk may be rescheduled for Friday 26 May. Please contact Sue for further information.

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

**Wednesday 14 June**, meet at 10:00am

**Whealers Bay, Ventnor (SZ569775)**

*Leader:* Andy Butler, Tel: 01983 854925

*Directions:* Meet in the Wheelers Bay car park (free), off Wheelers Bay Road, Ventnor, for a walk along the revetment to see the management that has been carried out for Glanville Fritillaries.

*Aiming to see:* Glanville Fritillary, Holly Blue, Orange Tip and Painted Lady.

**Monday 26 June**, meet at 9:00pm

**Afton Marsh, Freshwater (SZ346863)**, site: Gift to Nature

*Leader:* James Halsey, Tel: 07866 925888; Email: jameshalsey1@hotmail.co.uk

*Directions:* Meet at the Blackbridge Road entrance to the marsh. Parking limited so please let James know if you are hoping to come along. If the weather is bad on the day, this event will be rescheduled.

*Aiming to see:* Moth trapping and search for *Sclerocona acutellus*.

**Saturday 1 July**, meet at 9:00pm

**Oaks Cottage, Hillisgate, Parkhurst (SZ475924)**, site: Ian Merrifield

*Leaders:* Ian Merrifield, Tel: 01983 297132

*Directions:* Meet in Ian's garden a little before 9pm. At the traffic lights on Horse-bridge Hill, turn west on to Noke Common Road. Continue to Hillisgate entrance to the forest; at this junction proceed towards Marks Corner. Oaks Cottage is the second entrance on the right at the beginning of the road. Parking available in paddock in garden.

*Aiming to see:* Moth trapping.

**Wednesday 12 July**, meet at 9:00am

**Firestone Copse (SZ558910)**, site: Forestry Commission

*Leader:* Iain Outlaw, Email: zoothera@live.co.uk

*Directions:* Meet in the main Forestry Commission car park off Firestone Copse Road.

*Aiming to see:* Moth trapping.

**Saturday 15 July**, meet at 1:00pm

**Parkhurst Forest (SZ480900)**, site: Forestry Commission

*Leader:* Stuart Read, Tel: 07877 333734

*Directions:* Meet in the main car park off Forest Road.

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

**Friday 4 August**, meet at 10:30am

**Tennyson Down (SZ324855)**, site: National Trust

*Leader:* Caroline Dudley, Tel: 01983 754935

*Directions:* Meet in the National Trust car park at the end of Highdown Lane, Totland. The Needles Breezer open-top bus stops at the High Down Inn.

*Aiming to see:* Dark Green Fritillary, Chalkhill Blue and other blues.

**Saturday 2 September**, meet at 10:00am

**Brading Down (SZ597868)**, site: Gift to Nature

*Leader:* Ian Pratt, Tel: 01983 641305

*Directions:* Meet in the Brading Down viewpoint car park along Brading Down Road.

*Aiming to see:* Chalkhill Blue, Adonis Blue and Small Heath.



*Caroline Dudley, IoW Events Organiser*

*Scarlet Tiger. Rosemary Powell*



## Garden Plants for Butterflies and Bees

Ivy is well-known for being a useful and attractive plant for wildlife, but it can get out of hand very easily, smothering everything in sight. The solution is to get a bush ivy. If you haven't heard of this (I hadn't), it is formed from a piece of the mature, flowering growth which has been persuaded to root. It doesn't spread or wander. The best variety is *Hedera helix* 'Arbori Compact', a Dutch import, which forms a wonderful dense nectar-bearing shrub in late autumn, growing to about 1.5m wide and 1m high. As an attractant for bees it is hard to beat, and it will also provide a home for Holly Blue caterpillars.

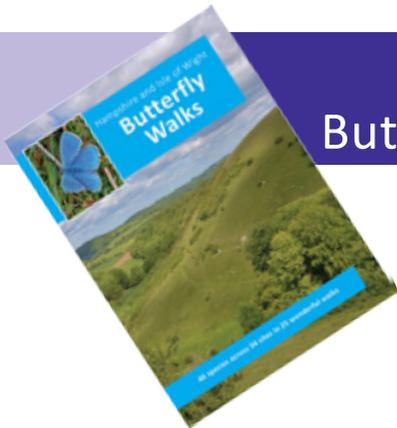


*Bumble bees on dahlia. Juliet Bloss*

***Eupatorium ligustrinum***: this shrub, which doesn't have a common name as far as I know, comes from Central America. It is hardy, evergreen and in late summer is covered in filmy white flowers, which are aromatic and hugely attractive to late season butterflies. Mine is planted next to a buddleia and is always preferred by visiting Red Admirals and Commas.

A herbaceous genus which is frequently visited by both bees and butterflies is Dahlia. There are lots of forms of this cultivated plant; the best for wildlife are the single varieties with a large central boss of stamens. There is one called ***Dahlia 'Pooh'***, bright yellow and red with a yellow centre, which is never without some insect or other. If you're put off by its brightness there are a number of other single varieties, but this seems to have the most pulling power. The dark-leaved types, such as the 'Bishop' series, have lovely single flowers in yellow, red, pink or white.

*Juliet Bloss*



## Butterfly Walks

To order your copy send a cheque for £7.25 (£6.00 for the guide and £1.25 for postage and packing) made payable to Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch Butterfly Conservation, together with your name and postal address to:

Kevin Freeborn, c/o Butterfly Conservation, Unit 2, Bull Pens, Manor Farm, Itchen Stoke, Alresford, Hampshire, SO24 0QT

Copies will also be available for purchase (cash only) from Jayne Chapman on the Wednesday Wanders, and Ashley Whitlock on the branch fieldtrips where he is the walk leader.

Or you can order online from NHBS at: <http://www.nhbs.com>



## High Flyers

I have often wondered, as I write up the annual reports for Painted Lady in Hampshire, why and under what conditions these butterflies arrive on our shores. We know that they are migrants from North Africa, but how do they manage to fly such a great distance even over several generations?

We may be closer to an answer after work published by a group of scientists who measured the flow of insects larger than ten thousandths of a gram, which includes butterflies, flying at altitudes between 150m and 1200m over southern UK between 2000 and 2009 <sup>1</sup>.

Although high-altitude winds blew consistently from the SW or W in “spring” (May to June), “summer” (July) and “autumn” (August to September) mass migrations of these larger insects did not simply move with the prevailing south-westerly winds. During the spring, mass migrations were consistently toward the north; in other words migration occurred on winds with a significantly greater northerly-directed component than the prevailing winds. In summer (July) mass migrations were randomly directed. Autumn mass migrations were consistently directed toward the south. Again this indicates the active selection of winds with a significantly greater southerly-directed component than the prevailing winds.

The scientists found that over their ten-year study northward spring movements of these larger insects were almost exactly cancelled out by southward autumn movements although in any one year there might be an imbalance of up to 6% of the total. Most of the flights occurred in the daytime.

Most insects migrated on warm days with low surface wind speeds. In the daytime (but not at night) whatever the season, the surface and high altitude winds blew in similar directions and this helped the butterflies to sense when to fly up to a higher (and windier) altitude to migrate. Surprisingly the scientists concluded that a compass-like mechanism must be aiding the migration of the larger insects including butterflies. The fact that the orientation of the insects in flight closely matched their tracks over the ground means that larger insects could add their self-powered airspeed to the wind vector and thus achieve speeds of as much as 22 to 36 mph. A butterfly flying for 4 hours could therefore travel well over 125 miles.



These amazing results were collected using special vertical upward looking radars<sup>2</sup> at three sites in southern England, one of which was Chilbolton in Hampshire. The radars provide a range of information including body mass, flight altitude, aerial density, speed, direction, and flight heading for all individual insects weighing more than 10 mg that fly through the radar beam.

<sup>1</sup> Gao Hu and others, Mass seasonal bioflows of high-flying insect migrants, *Science*, 354 (6319), 1584-1587.

<sup>2</sup> For more information on Vertical Looking Radar (VLR) and a photograph of one such installation at Rothamsted Research see <http://www.rothamsted.ac.uk/radar-entomology-unit/technologies>

**Bob Whitmarsh, Webmaster**

*Painted Ladies. Rosemary Powell*



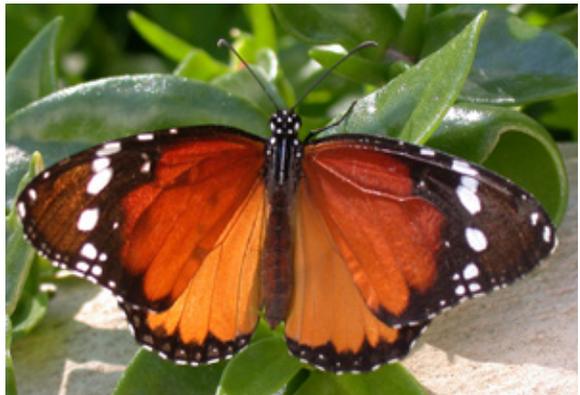
## A Butterfly Holiday in Greece

I am very lucky that my wife loves looking at butterflies and really appreciates the great places that it takes us in Europe. Not everyone is quite so lucky and I suspect that there are also female butterfly watchers whose partners are not that keen on walking up mountains. Most British holiday makers head for the coast and are after sun and sea and a bit of relaxation.

If a compromise is to be had and a butterfly holiday is also to be enjoyed by the other half, then with a little thought it can be arranged. Greece is a popular tourist destination and has some wonderful beaches but most tourists go to the islands or Crete where the butterfly fauna is limited. Crete only has 60 species but does have 4 endemics. Mainland Greece has a few resorts in the tourist brochures and has many more butterflies. There is Parga in the north-west, Stoupa in the south of the Peloponnese and Pelion and Halkidiki in the north. One of our favourite resorts is Olympiada, about an hour's drive east of Thessaloniki but it has very few Brits.

### Timing

Timing is also very important. I favour September when the magnificent Two-tailed Pasha (*Charaxes jasius*) has its second flight period (the other one is in May). This is one of Europe's most spectacular butterflies and is a coastal specialist feeding as a larva on Strawberry trees (*Arbutus sp*). It is the only European example of the family Charaxes which is common in the tropics. September is also a good time to see another beautiful butterfly, the Plain Tiger (*Danaus chrysippus*). This species is markedly coastal and does not tolerate cold or frost. It is a continuous breeder and we were amazed to see about 300 fresh specimens nectaring on some Tamarisk trees near Stoupa in September last year.



*Plain Tiger (Danaus chrysippus).*  
Trevor Codlin

## Eastern Aegean

With the current troubles in the Eastern Aegean one might think twice about going to Lesbos and Samos. The migrant crisis has probably ruined them as a tourist destination but they do have some good butterflies. Samos has its own Grayling (*Hipparchia mersina*) and the Orange-banded Hairstreak (*Satyrium ledereri*), which is a bit of a climb, as well as Eastern Brown Argus (*Kretania euripilus*). It is also a good place to see Southern Swallowtail (*Papilio alexanor*).



Scarce Swallowtail (*Iphiclides podalirius*). Dan Powell

## Mainland Greece

You will see a lot of the common Greek butterflies on or near the mainland coast. The Southern Comma (*Polygonia egea*) is usually common and the Southern White Admiral (*Limenitis reducta*), with its single row of dots, flies until September. Two skippers are decidedly coastal – Pygmy Skipper (*Gegenes pumilio*) and Mediterranean Skipper (*Gegenes nostrodamus*), but can also be found inland. Pygmy Skipper is more common and likes dry rocky places like dry river beds and beaches.



Southern Comma (*Polygonia egea*).  
Rosemary Powell



*Southern White Admiral (Limenitis reducta).* Rosemary Powell

From the coast of the mainland you can take a trip inland quite easily and visit some of the more mountainous areas for the day. Depending on the time of year you will have a chance to see some of Greece's 230 species. In July and August it makes a welcome change from the 40°C or more on the coast. Archaeological sites are often good for butterflies and often have Tree Grayling (*Hipparchia statilinus*). Roadside springs with their excellent drinking water are often good places to stop to see mud puddling blues. A good lunch in a taverna will give you the opportunity to spot Geranium Bronze (*Cacyreus marshali*) on the potted geraniums and watch the Scarce Swallowtail (*Iphiclides podalirius*) drifting by.

### Records

If you do go to Greece, we have a useful recording form for Greece as an Excel spreadsheet on the BC European Interest Group website [www.bc-eig.org.uk](http://www.bc-eig.org.uk) under 'countries' and Lazaros Pamperis, our colleague in Greece, will be glad of your records. For those that visit Greece regularly or live there part of the year, Lazaros and I are planning an EIG initiative for butterfly monitoring in Greece in 2017 and we wish to engage with ex-patriot communities there to encourage people to record butterflies. I can be contacted by email at the address below.

**Simon Spencer**  
[cerisyi@btinternet.com](mailto:cerisyi@btinternet.com)



## Butterfly Miscellany

### Answers to the Mainly Butterfly Crossword

Thank you to all those who entered the competition in our October edition, and for the general enthusiasm expressed for puzzles in future newsletters. Especial congratulations go to our prize winners from edition 101, Juliet Bloss and Norman Binsted. Well done both.

Here are the answers to the crossword.

#### Clues Across

1 WOOD WHITE  
8 CHALKHILL BLUE  
11 INTO  
12 MITES  
13 SPAR  
16 HEALERS  
17 SUNBEAM  
18 RAMBLER  
20 DOORMAT  
21 WARD  
22 SWELL  
23 BEAN  
26 CLOUDED YELLOW  
27 DAPLIDICE

#### Clues Down

2 OGLE  
3 DAHLIAS  
4 HELPERS  
5 TUBE  
6 WHITE ADMIRALS  
7 PURPLE EMPEROR  
9 HIGH BROWN  
10 BRIMSTONE  
14 REALM  
15 ENVOY  
19 RAW DEAL  
20 DELAYED  
24 PUPA  
25 ALEC

I hope this month's 'Mainly Butterfly' puzzle will prove just as entertaining.

### A Mainly Butterfly Word Search

Can you spot the butterfly names and butterfly-related terms in the grid below? Take a picture of your completed word search and email the photo to [butterflywalks@gmail.com](mailto:butterflywalks@gmail.com)

Closing date 2 June 2017. Five lucky winners drawn at random from the correct entries to receive a copy of *Hampshire and Isle of Wight Butterfly Walks*.

There are 30 words to find. Answers may be hidden in the grid horizontally, vertically and diagonally and may read backwards as well as forwards.

**Kevin Freeborn,  
Newsletter Editor**

S	M	A	H	T	O	M	G	F	L	A	R	V	A	R	G	Z	P	E	A	R
P	C	M	O	O	T	N	O	A	U	B	G	R	O	R	E	P	M	E	E	S
E	A	B	L	O	I	E	R	T	W	O	R	A	F	L	Y	P	I	P	Z	E
C	M	E	L	L	A	G	E	I	H	W	D	I	T	N	I	A	P	Y	E	T
K	B	R	Y	P	E	G	G	K	P	O	R	G	M	E	H	I	H	O	K	T
Q	E	A	B	B	A	H	K	F	U	O	C	H	A	S	K	I	L	L	C	E
U	R	O	L	R	Z	W	S	T	T	D	N	I	Q	S	T	E	V	B	O	L
G	W	U	U	E	O	R	T	E	R	W	E	B	D	E	I	O	E	A	C	G
U	E	P	E	D	U	K	A	D	S	H	Y	E	H	X	W	G	N	P	A	N
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I	L	R	U	D	P	V	T	C	X	T	O	R	A	N	G	E	T	I	P	R
N	B	I	G	M	E	U	Y	L	O	E	S	T	O	L	O	N	G	A	J	E
P	E	U	Q	I	L	S	P	P	U	S	U	G	R	A	N	W	O	R	B	H
C	A	W	A	R	Z	Z	S	A	I	D	R	E	B	O	K	E	V	I	N	G
H	U	W	A	A	G	R	E	E	N	H	A	I	R	S	T	R	E	A	K	E
A	T	F	F	L	E	P	O	C	H	A	L	K	H	I	L	L	B	L	U	E
U	Y	L	L	V	L	W	O	L	L	E	Y	D	E	D	U	O	L	C	R	S
B	R	O	L	A	I	R	T	T	U	L	E	I	N	N	D	D	O	A	L	W
G	R	I	Z	Z	L	E	D	S	K	I	P	P	E	R	Y	C	O	M	M	A
O	S	T	O	B	E	V	A	J	O	O	D	L	I	N	G	L	E	T	P	S

ADULT  
BRIMSTONE  
BROWN ARGUS  
CAMBERWELL BEAUTY  
CHALKHILL BLUE  
CLOUDED YELLOW  
COMMA  
COPPER  
DUKE  
EGG  
EMPEROR  
ESSEX  
GATEKEEPER  
GRAYLING  
GREEN HAIRSTREAK

GRIZZLED SKIPPER  
HOLLY BLUE  
LARGE BLUE  
LARVA  
MARSH FRITILLARY  
MOTH  
ORANGE TIP  
PEACOCK  
PUPA  
RED ADMIRAL  
RINGLET  
SILVER SPOTTED SKIPPER  
SMALL TORTOISESHELL  
WALL  
WOOD WHITE



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### Newsletter Deadline

Many thanks to all who have contributed with words and images for this issue. Please send your Lepidoptera-related newsworthy pieces and features to Kevin Freeborn... and you don't have to wait until August! New contributors most welcome.

The deadline for the autumn Newsletter, edition no. 103, is 25 August 2017

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

Last winter, Teresa Farino, of Iberian Wildlife, invited me to join a new 'recce' trip to Navarra (northern Spain) to look for the Spanish Moon Moth, with the possible additional attraction of Spanish Fritillary. Maybe it sounded a bit 'iffy', but there was also mention of help from a local guide. To me, the Spanish Moon Moth was near-mythical so I signed up! Teresa introduced our 'local guide'; some guide – it was Yeray Monasterio León, President of the Zerynthia Society (Spain's equivalent to BC). On the last night of our trip, Yeray and his helpers set up two groups of really powerful lamps and crowds of locals (I reckoned near 100) came to see their own special moth. It was great to see so many family groups and excited children (duly presented with T-shirts to commemorate the occasion). Did we see the moth? Yes we did – see the back cover.

*Ken Bailey*

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.*

*Spanish Moon Moth – Ken Bailey*