

DIARY OF EVENTS

The events below, mostly on our reserves, are also listed but not described in full in the Field Trip Programme on pp. 14-19.

SATURDAY 24 APRIL **BUTTERFLIES FOR ALL at MAGDALEN HILL DOWN.** Spring stroll (approx. 2½ hours) around the Reserve to see early butterflies and flowers. An opportunity to learn about habitat management. **Meet:** 10.30 am in gravel car park opposite Magdalen Hill cemetery on the B3404 (approx. ½ mile west of Percy Hobbs roundabout at SU 511 295). **Leaders:** Lynn Fomison, Patrick Fleet and others who help to run the Reserve.

MONDAY 3 MAY **A WALK IN THE WOODS at BENTLEY STATION MEADOW.** Spring stroll (approx. 1½ hours) around the Reserve and in adjoining woodland. Guided walk for spring flowers, butterflies and tree-lore. Children welcome. **Leader:** Lynn Fomison. **Meet:** 10.30 am in car park at Bentley Station (SU 792 432).

WEDNESDAY 5 MAY **MAIN COMMITTEE**

WEDNESDAY 5 MAY **BOTANICAL TRAINING DAY at MHD**
See p.11 for details of this event. **Time:**10.30 am. **Meet:** see directions for 24 April above.

MONDAY 10 MAY **“Hampshire’s Butterflies”**
Illustrated talk by Brian Fletcher. BC members are welcome to join HWT.
Time: 7.30. **Place:** Holy Trinity Church Hall, West Street, Fareham; parking in Western Rd or Trinity St. **Admission:** £2.00 incl. coffee. **Contact:** David Barclay.

SATURDAY 15 MAY **HONE YOUR I.D. SKILLS at YEW HILL**
Join Reserves Officer Lynn Fomison for a 2½ hour walk and develop your I.D. skills while viewing the butterfly habitat and larval foodplants on the Reserve. **ALL WELCOME.** **Time:** 10.30 am. **Directions:** meet at end of Old Kennels Lane (SU 451 269) near jct. Port Lane/Millers Lane or join us on the Reserve (SU 455 264).

SATURDAY 22 MAY **NATIONAL MOTH DAY & NIGHT**
Events are listed in the Field Trip Programme for 22 May..

MONDAY 24 MAY **AN EVENING at MAGDALEN HILL DOWN**
Meander round MHD Reserve with naturalist **Phil Budd.** A relaxing evening walk (approx. 2 hours) with superb views of Winchester too. **Time:** 7.00 pm. **Directions:** see 24 April.

WEDNESDAY 2 JUNE **SHARING NATURE WITH CHILDREN at MHD**
A short, leisurely walk & butterfly games for parents and children. 1½ hours duration. Bring a small picnic with you if you wish. **Time:** 10.30 am. **Directions:** see 24 April. **Leaders:** Patrick Fleet & Lynn Fomison.

SUNDAY 13 JUNE **A SUMMER STROLL at YEW HILL**
The orchids should be especially good at this time. **Time:** 10.30 am (10.45 on Reserve by reservoir entrance) for approx 2 hours.. **Leader:** Colin Matthews.
Directions: see 15 May.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

The Chairman has various thoughts but this time he finds that this poem is much more interesting than anything he might write.

Caterpillar

Although the pupa outwardly looks inert and resting, inside it is a bubbling cauldron of activity as the caterpillar is literally liquefied, then reassembled...into a very different creature. It's still not fully understood how this process occurs.

Science slides away from me; algebra rearranges my thoughts
into question marks knocking their heads against walls.

But this strikes me, these lines on mysterious biology,
on a life form transforming itself like alchemy.

From slow sloth to powdery flight, and in between liquid fire.
Transmutation. A witch's brew.

There is this in the caterpillar's life I like:
the second chance for beauty,
the life of toil rewarded,
the sumptuous display after hugging walls,
a shy dancer caught up by the music,
a Cinderella in shining shoes.

The puzzles of insect life belong to us too.
Have you noticed that when they tell you where our organs are
they don't tell you how they move.
How the stomach shrinks and stretches like an accordion,
or spins in confined abandon like the spokes on a wheel.
Or how the lungs tighten,
the veins ache.

How the heart, from firmness, dissolves,
reforming into something that can fly.

*

Caterpillar is taken from the volume *Stitches* by Kate Scott, £7.95 post-free from Peterloos Poets, The Old Chapel, Sand Lane, Calstock, Cornwall PL18 9QX.

Alan Green, Chairman

COUNTING OR ESTIMATING? LETTERS OR NUMBERS? RECORDERS PLEASE NOTE

The forms ask you to estimate the numbers of species by using the letters A to E, but please *do not do that this year*. Dave Green, keeper of our database, is using a new system which will not accept letters to denote numbers.

There is no problem with the A and E categories: simply write 1 or 100+. But with the B, C, and D categories you need to make an estimate as to where in those categories your count falls. With B category counts this is not difficult because the range is only from 2 to 9. But with the C (10-29) and D (30-99) categories the difficulties are considerable.

If you have seen a D-count of Marbled Whites, decide whether the count was low in the category, in the middle, or towards the top and enter an appropriate number. Better still, try counting. It is not as difficult as you might think. If you have made a count of say 60, indicate that it is an actual count; otherwise I will assume that 60 means an estimate.

More and more members are sending in numbers rather than A-E records, which is very encouraging. Thank you in advance to all those who heed these words and act accordingly.

John Taverner, Branch Recorder and Report Editor

M E M B E R S ' D A Y 2004

Members' Day 2004 will be on Saturday 20 November at St. Barnabas Church Hall in Winchester. Doors will be open at 1.00 pm and the AGM will start at 1.30 pm. It will be followed by talks on the Purple Emperor by Matthew Oates, the Marsh Fritillary by Caroline Bulman, Portsdown by Mike Gwilliam, and the Moths of the New Forest by David Green. Tea will be provided as usual by members of the Branch, and this year donations will be requested on the day. There will be a raffle with three special prizes.

Alan Green, Chairman

MORE ABOUT RECORDING

BUTTERFLY RECORDS AND MapMate

Many recorders are now using MapMate software to record wildlife sightings on their home PCs. For the past few years the Branch's moth database has successfully used this software, and I would recommend that anyone interested in using their PC to store their records take a good look at this product. It is not expensive as these things go and it is one of the easiest-to-use database packages I have come across. Details are available from <http://www.mapmate.co.uk> or by post from Teknica Limited, 35 West Brook, Yeovil, Somerset BA21 3UD.

During 2003 a copy of the Branch's butterfly database was transferred to MapMate with the intention of running this in parallel with the existing Levana database. Levana is a program specially developed by Jim Asher for the *Millennium Atlas of Butterflies in Britain and Ireland* project, and we will be continuing to use it to maintain compatibility with the National Society. However, MapMate has several advantages for use at a local or county level, particularly in facilitating data exchange with other organisations and extracting records for individual site queries.

The Branch can now accept butterfly data electronically in the form of MapMate sync files, and we would be pleased to receive records in this form from anyone using the program. Our "cuk" number for the butterfly database is 1c4 and the synchronisation filters should be sent to –

Records: "<all records >"

Sites: "Hampshire & Isle of Wight"

Taxa: "Lepidoptera: Butterflies"

The resulting file can then either be e-mailed to me or copied onto a disk and posted to my address on the back cover. I will see that any data submitted this way is incorporated into the Levana dataset for use in the *Butterflies in the New Millennium* project and that it is forwarded on to the County Recorder for use in compiling our annual Branch *Butterfly & Moth Report*.

David Green, Chairman Records Subcommittee

DATA COLLECTION

Progress with *Butterflies in the New Millennium*

2003 proved to be an outstanding year for the number of butterfly records received by the Branch. This was probably due mainly to favourable weather conditions for recording throughout most of last summer (including the weekends for a change!). A further influx of records resulted from a new data-exchange agreement with the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. The data input team processed a total of 21,195 butterfly records over the winter: 12,166 of them were for 2003 itself and the remainder important historical data for previous years. As a result, coverage for the follow up to the *Millennium Atlas of Butterflies in Britain and Ireland* is now looking extremely impressive. A huge “thank you” to all recorders who submitted records last year.

As this year will be the last chance to collect data for this project, I thought it might be useful to produce a map showing the extent of coverage so far. The map shows the distribution of all butterfly records for the period 2000 to 2003. I’ve produced this at a 2-km level; each dot represents a record of at least one butterfly from that square. The overall distribution is looking good and we may even be able to match the coverage of the Millennium Atlas itself, where we managed to obtain records from all but one of the 2-km squares in the two counties.

At present the only area with really significant gaps in coverage is the 10-km square SZ92 to the south-west of the New Forest. Can I make a special plea to everyone visiting Hordle Cliff this summer to make a note of any butterflies they see travelling to and from the site? There are some opportunities for gap-filling in other areas too and Linda Barker has compiled a list of the less well-recorded squares. If you would like to find out which parts of your local area would benefit from some extra attention, get in touch with Linda and she will be pleased to allocate you a square (or two or three...).

Of course, it is not just the unrecorded squares that are important, and records from all areas will be gratefully received as usual. Please keep them coming.. Here’s wishing you all a productive and enjoyable season in 2004.

David Green, Chairman Records Subcommittee

THE ISLE of WIGHT

Some five years ago the Branch Committee decided that the establishment of local groups could help members feel a greater sense of belonging to the society. The setting up of the North-East and South-East Hampshire Groups has been very successful and created a focus, not only for members, but for local authorities, land-owners, businesses, etc.

We are very aware of how great a barrier the Solent can be, making it difficult for those living on the Isle of Wight to get to our mainland events. I am delighted to say that John Rowell has agreed to initiate a Group on the Isle of Wight. He is already a very active member and would like any member on the Island to contact him. The Group will not be a competitor to the excellent Natural History Society but will give an opportunity for members to work together on whatever projects they like.

Alan Green, Chairman

NEWS FROM JERSEY

As reported in the last Newsletter, we are delighted that Butterfly Conservation members living in the Channel Islands have joined our Branch. Several conservation organisations on Jersey have also expressed a wish for closer links with like-minded people on the UK mainland, including the exchange of articles in newsletters. I have sent an article for the next newsletter “Action for Wildlife-Jersey”; here is Jersey’s first contribution to ours.

Alan Hold

ACTION FOR WILDLIFE–JERSEY

“Action for Wildlife–Jersey” was set up in December 2000 to promote an appreciation of the Island’s environment and “hands-on” support of its wildlife. Its activities have been successful in three ways: indoor meetings with invited guest speakers; regular outdoor guided nature walks; and specific conservation tasks. While indoor meetings are held during the winter months, field walkabouts continue throughout the entire year, with a series of bird walks, seashore discovery rambles, moth and bat evenings, and butterfly “safaris”. all are informal and led by local specialists.

The group’s continuous fundraising has led directly to the free-leasing of 12 unused agricultural fields. They have been prepared with winter bird-seed as part of a five-year seeding project in partnership with local landowners Kings Seeds Ltd. As well as satisfying wintering flocks of birds, particularly mixed finches, each field has specially prepared strip-margins designed to support butterflies and beetles.

A surfeit of practical hands-on opportunities led to the emergence in 2002 of another active section of AfW-J – the Jersey Conservation Volunteers. This “task force” carries out practical wildlife-friendly projects on the first weekend of each month from October to April. The JCV has undertaken conservation work on behalf of several organisations, including the National Trust for Jersey, the Jersey Association of the Men of the Trees, the States Environment Department, the Alderney Wildlife Trust, and the Alderney Society. Much of the success of AfW-J is entirely due to nurturing good working relationships with other environmental groups and associations. AfW-J hopes that these relationships can be extended through further correspondence and exchanges with mainland organisations such as the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Branch of Butterfly Conservation. A warm welcome is therefore extended to any member visiting Jersey. AfW-J will be delighted to make your acquaintance.

Mike Stentiford MBE, Chairman, Action for Wildlife-Jersey

RESERVES U.P.D.A.T.E.

Much has been achieved this winter both through the regular work undertaken by Patrick Fleet, major tree-work at Bentley Station Meadow by a specialist contractor, and all the volunteer effort. Thanks to Colin Matthews and a small group at Yew Hill, the Reserve is looking splendid. We are also grateful for Sarah and Chris Jackson's cows, which are now grazing the new field. *The new field?* Since October we have been renting a field behind the reservoir from Southern Water and we are currently arranging to manage it for at least the next eight years. The field is not suitable for open public access, but we will take the guided walks there this summer. It commands marvellous views and we are calling it "Hilltop" rather than "Southern Water Field".

Conservation efforts at Magdalen Hill Down were boosted by two work days by volunteer groups. The Wednesday Conservation Volunteers, who help several times a year, coppiced the scrub block due for cutting in the 18-year rotation cycle. Hampshire Conservation Volunteers (www.hcv.org.uk) cleared the derelict enclosures and the scrub that was encroaching on the fence line. HCV are coming back in the summer to help clear ragwort and to see the butterflies that their work has been helping. HCV also spent a whole weekend at Bentley Station Meadow, where they laid old thorn trees to provide a hedge at the northern boundary. Several work parties of BSM regulars have got the Reserve looking ready for spring.

At all our reserves we have been helped significantly by Ben Spraggons and his array of machinery - our favourite being the munching machine. We have forged links with Leigh House Hospital (opposite Magdalen Hill Down), and occupational therapist Geoff Piper and his students have made nest boxes for the Reserve. Butterfly transects will now have started, and moths, flowers and other orders will be recorded. We could still do with more help with this - as much or as little as you like. Pat Fleet will be running a moth trap regularly at BSM again this season: contact him (see back pages) to find out when he is going to be there as this activity is very weather-dependent.

Lynn Fomison, Reserves Officer

NEW SPECIES FOR BENTLEY STATION MEADOW?

The annual *Butterfly and Moth Report* notes an exciting sighting of a Pearl-bordered Fritillary at BSM by Patrick Fleet. David Green says that it was seen on the very same day by Terry Hotten. As PBFs have not been seen in Alice Holt for a while, it may have been a deliberate release. But we live in hope that it was the genuine thing and that in 2004 we can establish whether more are around. I have permission to survey areas of Alice Holt near to BSM; if you would like to help please contact me.

Lynn Fomison, Reserves Officer

THE BEALES ARE ON THE MOVE!

Peter and Nellie Beale are moving at the end of May to live on the Essex/Suffolk border. We shall miss them greatly, both for their friendship and Nellie's lovely cakes and for the superb illustrated talks that Peter has given for many years - both promoting conservation work for Hampshire Butterflies and raising a lot of money for the Branch. Our good wishes go to them both.

TRAINING DAY BOTANICAL MONITORING

10.30 am on 5 May at Magdalen Hill Down

Colin Matthews is providing a training session for those interested in helping with the annual plant-monitoring exercise on the Extension at MHD, which takes place in June. This monitoring is essential for providing data which is analysed by Dr Charlie Gibson of Bioscan to show how the sward is developing.

To reserve a place: call Colin.

ATTENTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS PAST & PRESENT

Leaflet: Havens for Butterflies

Our supplies of this colour leaflet for Magdalen Hill Down are starting to run low. If you are still holding a supply you are not using please contact Lynn Fomison.

BUTTERFLY COURSE REVIEWED

What's the difference between a Butterfly Identification Course and an Aerobics Course?

Answer: 34 individuals joined the former, and six weeks later nobody had dropped out.

To compound this difference, the butterfly course was free, so it was hardly a case of “getting your money’s worth”; it was held in February, and some of us travelled a fair distance in the dark and rain.

The course was held at Shawford, and the class consisted of all standards, from those who had a sound knowledge and a lifetime of observations, down to myself, the pig-ignorant. Each week we were presented with slides showing how to identify the different British butterflies, although mainly concentrated on the Hampshire species. Some easy, we all know the Comma, Red Admiral, Painted Lady; but the Skippers, Browns, Whites, Fritillaries and so on require attention to detail, in markings, habitat, behaviour, location and time of year. Therefore, the task for Andy Barker, assisted by his wife Linda, was to cater for those intending to keep precise and scientific records, down to those who just want to enjoy nature and the beauty of watching butterflies in their summer glory.

This juggling act was achieved to such a degree that when Jenny Mallett and Juliet Bloss proposed “thanks” at the end of the six weeks, Jenny suggested that this “may have been the best value for money that the Hampshire Branch had ever spent.” High praise indeed.

On the fifth week, David Green, who has observed moths since he was five, treated us to a talk and his enthusiasm shone through. How can anyone be enthusiastic about those inconsequential creatures that are brown, small and do little besides smash into one’s windscreens on a summer’s night? You either love moths or hate them. Actually, that last point is not true. Like 99% of the population, I am, or rather was, indifferent to them. No longer so. Now, I am fixated, there is so much to learn, in fact much is unknown; they are adaptable, incredibly varied in lifestyle, beautiful, resourceful, the camouflage has to be unseen to be believed, and, well, they are demanding of our respect.

In summary, I take away good and bad sentiments from my six weeks at Shawford Village Hall. I have obtained knowledge of butterflies and moths, their intriguing, varied behaviour, how, when and where to identify them. Secondly, I come away heartened by knowing there are still people out there who give of their time free of charge to assist nature in its eternal battle with man, and also to give pleasure to us.

I include those who maintain sites, keep records, keep accounts, organise walks, campaign for the environment, edit the newsletter and those who make the tea. Thirdly, I know of the place where Victor Meldrew met his demise and where the flowers were laid.

There is a downside to all of this for me. Such is life. I have bought the videos (and may I recommend “Butterfly Days”), am reading the books and will be forking out for the moth traps. The downside is that I fear this will not be a passing fad. I have an unfortunate feeling this could be for life. Oh dear!

Ian Julian, Hayling Island

REVIEW NO. 2

As my project for 2004 was to learn more about butterflies, I was delighted to hear of Andy Barker’s course on butterfly i.d and immediately enrolled.

Around 34 of us met each Tuesday evening in Shawford for six weeks. Andy took us through all the 46 species found in Hampshire and a few of the day-flying moths, and there were presentations by guest speakers on their specialist subjects on several evenings. He also introduced us to monitoring and surveying techniques; most butterfly records in Hampshire come from nature reserves or gardens and more information is required for other areas. Anyone who wished to be involved was allocated a 2km square to visit over the summer to produce records.

I have already had a look around my square and can’t wait for April to arrive. I now feel competent enough to get started and hope to undertake some transect work as well.

Many thanks to Andy for such an informative and enjoyable course.

Judith Chawner, Winchester.

SATURDAY 22 MAY IS NATIONAL MOTH DAY & NIGHT

See following events.

SATURDAY 22 MAY MARTIN DOWN

Leader: Pete Durnell. **Meet:** 11.00 am (3 hour walk) in the northern car park (SU 037 201) off the A354. For burnets, foresters and bee-hawks amongst the many day-flying moths. Butterflies will not be ignored!

SATURDAY 22 MAY MARTIN DOWN MOTH EVENING

Leader: Dave Green. Moth trapping from around 9.30 pm onwards and a trap-opening session at **9.00 am on Sunday morning**. The Sunday morning meeting should provide plenty of opportunities for photographers. **Meet:** at the lower car park (SU 058 193) for both (reached from the turning in Martin village). Joint with HWT.

SATURDAY 22 MAY ST CATHERINES HILL, WINCHESTER, MOTH EVENING

Leader: Mark Langford. **Meet:** 7.30 pm at Garnier Road car park (SU 484 281) on the north side of the hill. Join HWT Reserves Officer Mark Langford for an evening of moth trapping on the reserve. Phone Mark to confirm. Bring a torch and warm clothes.

SATURDAY 22 MAY MILLFIELD, OLD BASING, MOTH EVENING

Leader: Tim Norriss. **Meet:** 8.00 pm at the gate into Millfield at Bartons Mill (SU 662 531). Bring a torch and warm clothes.

SATURDAY 22 MAY HOLMSLEY, NEW FOREST, MOTH EVENING

Leader: Pete Durnell. **Meet:** 7.30pm. Park in the car park in the northern corner of Holmsley Inclosure at SU 222 012. Walk north along the road and then turn right along the old railway line. Trapping will be at approx SU 225 012. Bring a torch and warm clothes.

SATURDAY 22 MAY PAMBER HEATH MOTH EVENING

Leader: Graham Dennis. **Meet:** 9.00 pm at the Impstone Road entrance to Pamber Forest (SU 616 622). Join HWT Reserves Officer Graham Dennis to see the moths of Pamber Forest Wildlife Reserve as they come to light traps set in the woods. Bring a torch and warm clothes. Joint with HWT.

SUNDAY 23 MAY MORNING MOTH-TRAP OPENING

Time: 9.00 am. See Saturday evening meeting at Martin Down above.

SUNDAY 23 MAY DEAN HILL

Leader: Ches Carpenter. **Meet:** 10.30 am in car park at RNAD Dean Hill (SU 261 267), east of West Dean. Map: Salisbury 184.

**Monday 24 May Evening walk at MHD*

SATURDAY 29 MAY MARTIN DOWN (joint with Dorset Branch)

Leader: Peter Gardner. **Meet:** 11.00 am in car park on A354 at northern end of Martin Down (SU 037 201). Map: Salisbury 184.

SATURDAY 29 MAY ISLE OF WIGHT

Leader: John Taverner. Phone leader for details.

SUNDAY 30 MAY**PORTON DOWN**

Leader: Porton Down warden. **Meet:** 10.00 am. Take A30 Winchester/Salisbury road and turn north into MOD road immediately after the Pheasant Hotel (SU 230 347). Continue along this road to DERA Porton Down entrance. Park in car park. The majority of the visit will be spent walking on the range so wear walking boots or stout shoes and suitable outdoor clothing. **YOU MUST BOOK IN ADVANCE WITH PETER GARDNER BY 1 MAY FOR THIS TRIP.** The Site Manager requires a list of full names, dates of birth and car registration nos. Map: Salisbury 184.

TUESDAY 1 JUNE**DENBIES HILL (joint with Surrey Branch)**

Leader: Mike Welles. **Meet:** 11.00 am in Ranmore National Trust car park east (TQ 141 503). If coming by A25 take left-hand turn at double roundabout just west of Dorking (roughly north); when road forks take left-hand fork (railway station), continue up long steep hill. Car park (charge) is 100m from top of hill on left. **Contact:** Howard Whiting. Map: Dorking/Reigate 187.

Wednesday 2 JuneSharing Nature with Children at MHD***SATURDAY 5 JUNE****LANGLEY WOOD, near LANDFORD**

Leader: David Burton, English Nature Warden. **Meet:** 11.00 am. From A36 take B3079 south, turn west on minor road to Hamptworth, turn first right after Hamptworth Golf Club. Meeting place is on a bend in the road (SU 235 205). Map: Salisbury 184.

SUNDAY 6 JUNE**SALISBURY PLAIN**

Leader: Mike Wildish. **Meet:** 10.30 am at the bend in the road at Wetherill Firs, one mile south of Everleigh (SU 203 525). Map: Salisbury 184.

THURSDAY 10 JUNE**SWANWICK WILDLIFE TRUST RESERVE**

Leader: Trust Warden. **Meet:** 10.30 am in car park. Leave M27 at J8 and take A27 towards Fareham. Continue over River Hamble and turn left at traffic lights into Swanwick Lane. Go over motorway bridge and turn left into Sopwith Way, then left at mini-roundabout just before security barrier for NATS (SU 507 099). Map: Solent 196.

SATURDAY 12 JUNE**ASHFORD HILL NNR**

Leader: Tim Norriss. **Meet:** 10.30 am at the B3051-end of Old Lane, Ashford Hill (SU 557 623). Please park sensibly on nearby roads. Bring lunch and wellies. This can be a wet site. Map: Newbury 174.

SATURDAY 12 JUNE**MARTIN DOWN MOTH EVENING**

Leader: Dave Green **Meet:** 9.00 pm in the northern car park (SU 037 201) off the A354. If it's half as good as last year's June meeting this will be a great evening. Bring a torch.

Sunday 13 JuneSummer Stroll at Yew Hill***SATURDAY 19 JUNE****PAMBER FOREST WILDLIFE TRUST RESERVE**

Leader: Graham Dennis, Trust Warden. **Meet:** 10.30 am at Impstone car park, near Tadley (SU 616 622). Map: Reading 175.

SATURDAY 19 JUNE**CHAPPETTS COPSE MOTH EVENING**

Leader: Tim Norriss. **Meet:** 9.00pm at SU 654 229 at the southern end of Chappetts Copse, which lies just south-east of West Meon. Bring a torch.

SUNDAY 20 JUNE**MOTTISFONT**

Leader: Phil Marshall, Warden.. **Meet:** 2.00 pm in the ca park (SU 327 270).
Map: Winchester 185.

SATURDAY 26 JUNE**PERHAM DOWN**

Leader: Mike Wildish. **Meet:** 10.30 am in car park opposite Spar shop, Station Road, Tidworth (SU 239 484). Map: Salisbury 184.

SUNDAY 27 JUNE**MARTIN DOWN FOR CLEARWINGS**

Leader: Andy Collins 755. **Meet:** 11.00 am in the northern car park off the A354 (SU 037 201).
Pheromone lures will be used to look for clearwings.

THURSDAY 1 JULY**PITT DOWN/CRAB WOOD**

Leader: Peter Gardner. **Meet:** 10.30 am at Spindle Tree car park. Take A3090 Romsey Road south-west from Winchester Hospital; at roundabout take Clarendon Way to car park west (SU 422 292). Map: Winchester 185.

SATURDAY 3 JULY**NEW FOREST (joint with Hampshire Field Club)**

Leader: Alan Hold. **Meet:** 11.00 am in car park at Beaulieu Old Airfield, (SU 356 003). Stout footwear and protection against ticks is recommended. Butterflies and dragonflies. Map: Solent 196.

SUNDAY 4 JULY**WESTWOOD (joint with Southampton NHS)**

Leader: Phil Budd. **Meet:** 10.30 am in Mill House car park on Grange Road (SU 457 091).
Map: Solent 196.

SATURDAY 10 JULY**HOOK COMMON HWT RESERVE, BASINGSTOKE,**

MOTH EVENING. **Leader:** Tim Norriss. **Meet:** At 9.00 pm in the lay-by on the south side of the A287 at SU 718 533. Please phone Tim Norriss first. Bring a torch.

SUNDAY 11 JULY**BUTTERWOOD**

Leader: Paul Boswell. **Meet:** 2.00 pm at Cotsman Corner. From M3 take A287 Farnham road, then first right and after 1/3 mile park in lay-by near track. Map: Aldershot 186.

**Sunday 11 July*

Butterflies for All at Bentley Station Meadow

FRIDAY 16 JULY**FROHAWK WALK, NEW FOREST**

Leader: John Gulliver. **Meet:** 10.30 am in Standing Hat car park (SU 314 035). Take A337 Lyndhurst/Brockenhurst road; at Balmer Lawn Hotel turn left on B3055, then left on track to car park. This walk celebrates the birthday of Frederick W. Frohawk. Map: Solent 196.

SATURDAY 17 JULY**KEYHAVEN MOTH EVENING**

Leader: Pete Durnell. **Meet:** 9.30 pm. Park in the car park just east of Keyhaven bridge (SU 308 917). Trapping will be 2-300m along the ancient trackway to the north-east. Bring a torch.

SATURDAY 17 JULY**BOTLEY WOOD**

Leader: Richard Levett. **Meet:** 10.30 am by the double gates under the electricity pylon line on Titchfield Lane, Tapnag (between Wickham and Titchfield) (SU 551 102). Map: Solent 196.

**Saturday 17 July*

A Wildlife Wander at MHD

SUNDAY 18 JULY**SHORTHEATH COMMON (joint with Dragonfly Society)**

Leaders: Bill and Chris Wain. **Meet:** 10.30 am in car park by pond on Kingsley/Oakhanger road (SU 775 369). Mainly dragonflies. Map: 196.

THURSDAY 22 JULY **CROCKFORD BRIDGE, NEW FOREST**
Leader: John Taverner. **Meet:** 10.30 am in Crockford Bridge car park, (SU 349 989). Mainly dragonflies. Map: Solent 196.

SATURDAY 24 JULY **PORTSDOWN HILL (joint with Friends of Portsdown Hill and HWT).** **Leader:** Richard Jones, Warden. **Meet:** 10.00 am in pull-in at jct (roundabout) of Portsdown Hill Road/Southwick Road (SU 647 066) on Portsdown Hill road.

Sunday 25 July *Work party at MHD*

SUNDAY 25 JULY **MICHELDEVER WOODS/ABBOTSTONE DOWN**
Leader: Patrick Fleet. **Meet:** 10.00 am in Micheldever Wood car park, near Micheldever (SU 529 365). Bring lunch if intending to continue to Abbotstone Down in the afternoon. **Meet:** 2.00 pm at Abbotstone car park (SU 582 362). Map: Winchester 185.

SATURDAY 31 JULY **KINGLEY VALE (joint with Sussex Branch)**
Leader: David Mercer, Warden. **Meet:** 10.30 am. Take A286 Midhurst/Chichester road to Lavant. Turn west in village, continue and park on right just past village of West Stoke (SU 825 088). Map: Chichester 197.

**Saturday 31 July* *Afternoon walk at MHD*

SATURDAY 31 JULY **FAWLEY MOTH EVENING**
Leader: Martin Harvey. **Meet:** 8.00 pm. Enjoy the fascinating moth habitats around Fawley Power Station. Meet at Tom Tiddlers Ground, Calshot (SU 480 018). For booking and more information contact leader. Joint with HWT.

SUNDAY 1 AUGUST **OLD WINCHESTER HILL (joint with Wilts Branch)**
Leader: Alan McVitie, Warden. **Meet:** 11.00 am in Old Winchester Hill car park. Take A32 to Warnford. Opposite the George and Falcon take single-track road to Clanfield (SU 547 210). Map: Winchester 185.

**Wednesday 4 August* *Butterflies for All at Yew Hill*

SATURDAY 7 AUGUST **STOCKBRIDGE DOWN**
Leader: Brian Fletcher. **Meet:** 11.00 am in car park on right of B3049 Winchester/Stockbridge road (SU 387 345). Map: Winchester 185.

SATURDAY 7 AUGUST 01264) 354944. **Meet:** 9.00 pm at the gate into Millfield at Bartons Mill (SU 662 531). Bring a torch and warm clothes.

SATURDAY 7 AUGUST **WOOLSTON MOTH EVENING**
Leader: Phil Budd. **Meet:** 9.00 pm at SU 437 115 at the junction of Sea Road and Peartree Avenue for mothing on Peartree Green. Bring a torch and warm clothes. Joint with Southampton Natural History Society.

SUNDAY 8 AUGUST **PORTLAND (joint with Dorset and Devon Branches)**
Leader: Bernard Franklin. **Meet:** 10.30 am at the public car park at Portland Heights (SY 690 731) for inspection of moth trap and 11.00 am at Kingbarrow Quarry. Bring lunch if continuing to Church Ope Cove in the afternoon. **Meet:** 2.00 pm at the Perryfields Butterfly car park (SY 695 712). Please note that the Cove can be reached only by a flight of steep steps. Map: Dorchester 194.

**Wednesday 11 August* *Sharing Nature with Children at MHD*

SATURDAY 14 AUGUST **PEWSEY DOWN**
Leader: Peter Gardner. **Meet:** 10.30 am in car park on right, one and a half miles north of Alton Barnes, north-west of Pewsey (SU 116 637). Map: Swindon 173.

SATURDAY 14 AUGUST **ST JOHNS COPSE, OAKLEY, MOTH EVENING**
Leader: Tim Norriss. **Meet:** 8.00 pm at SU 581 506. Those wishing to come should ring Audrey Moss-Bradnam (01256) 780074 to confirm details of parking/access, etc. Bring a torch and warm clothes. Joint with HWT.

SUNDAY 15 AUGUST **HENGISTBURY HEAD (joint with Dorset)**
Leader: Mike Gibbons. **Meet:** 11.00 am in Hengistbury Head car park (charge) (SZ 165 911). Bring lunch. Map: Bournemouth 195.

WEDNESDAY 18 AUGUST **BROUGHTON DOWN**
Leader: Colin Matthews. **Meet:** 10.00 am. Take A30 Stockbridge/Salisbury road. After 5 miles take B3084 to Broughton. **DO NOT** take other turnings to Broughton. After cemetery on left, turn right into Buckholt road and park at end of made-up road (SU 302 326). Map: Winchester 185.

SATURDAY 21 AUGUST **NOAR HILL (HWT reserve)**
Leader: Peter Gardner. **Meet:** 10.30 am. From Selborne take minor road to East Tisted; after half a mile take **VERY** minor road on left that is easily missed. Park on verge by gravel track (SU 737 322). Car-share if possible as parking is limited. Map: Aldershot 186.

SUNDAY 22 AUGUST **BULFORD RANGES, SALISBURY PLAIN**
Leader: John Moon. **Meet:** 11.00 am just off the Bulford to Tidworth road where tarmac road leads to firing range (SU 215 460). Map: Salisbury 184.

WEDNESDAY 25 AUGUST **MARTIN DOWN**
Leader: John Ruppertsbery. **Meet:** 11.00 am in car park on A354 at northern end of Martin Down (SU 037 2010). Map: Salisbury 184.

SUNDAY 29 AUGUST **WINSPIT (joint Winchester RSPB group)**
Leader: John Clark. **Meet:** 10.30 am in car park at Worth Matravers (SY 974 776). Leave Corfe on Swanage road, turn right on the B3069. In Kingston bear left by the Scott Arms and after one mile turn right to Worth. Car park on right as you enter village. Map: Bournemouth 195.

**Saturday 11 September* *Guided walk for Heritage Open Days at MHD*

**Sunday 12 September* *Guided walk for Heritage Open Days at MHD*

GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE

DESERT ISLAND PLANTS

Having decided to downsize my residence in anticipation of senility and a reduced pension, I was vexed as to which flowers to plant. I had previously devoted most of my quarter-acre plot to butterflies, but it was never as successful as hoped. With the exception of 16 August 1996, when it hosted over 200 jewels-of-the-air (mostly Painted Ladies), it never fulfilled the maxim of “more plants, more butterflies”. My new garden on the chalk slopes of Ports Down faces south but is small. So which eight nectar plants to take to attract butterflies throughout the season?

No.1 would have to be the early spring-flowering *Buddleja officinalis*. It closely resembles *dauidii* and its pale mauve panicles are a mecca for overwintered vanessids, providing a sight as welcome as the first snowdrop.

By Easter, whites are the predominant visitors, and crucifers always the major attraction. Honesty is very popular, but tempts too many Orange Tips to lay eggs, with poor results. Sweet Rocket is better in that respect, but flowers rather late. A close call, but the long-flowering ‘**Bowles Mauve**’ wallflower would have to be my choice.

May and June are typically poor months for garden butterflies; better to concentrate on summer and begin with *Verbena bonariensis*. If I was allowed only one plant, this Patagonian perennial would be it, by virtue of the extraordinarily wide appeal of its mauve flowers, which endure until the first frosts.

A *Buddleja dauidii* variety or hybrid is of course *de rigueur*. The more gaudy colours of ‘Royal Red’ etc., were never as attractive as the pastel hues, and my choice would be either ‘**Lochinch**’ or the curious ‘**Dartmoor**’, with its complex panicles. However, for the browns, especially Gatekeepers, the native **Marjoram** (*Origanum vulgare*) was never surpassed and would have to be included in the borders, perhaps fronting **Lavender**, so popular with whites, skippers and blues.

With the advent of autumn the washed-out pink flowerheads of *Sedum spectabile* can generally be relied on to interest the vanessids until the end of September, by which time *Buddleja auriculata* should be in its stride. This South African shrub is frost-tender in infancy and best grown against a south wall unless in a coastal garden. The small off-white panicles exude a powerful scent and attract Red Admirals on sunny days right up until Christmas.

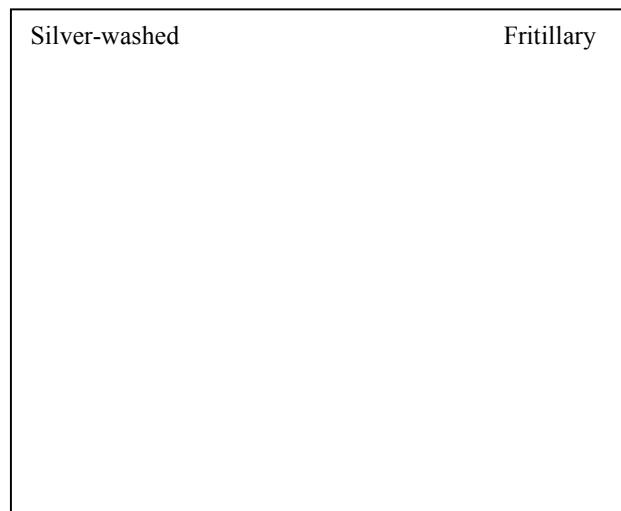
Some difficult choices then, with several stalwarts omitted, but in the butterfly-attraction stakes, second-best just isn’t good enough.

Andrew Brookes, Leader S.E. Area Group

KNOW YOUR FRITILLARIES

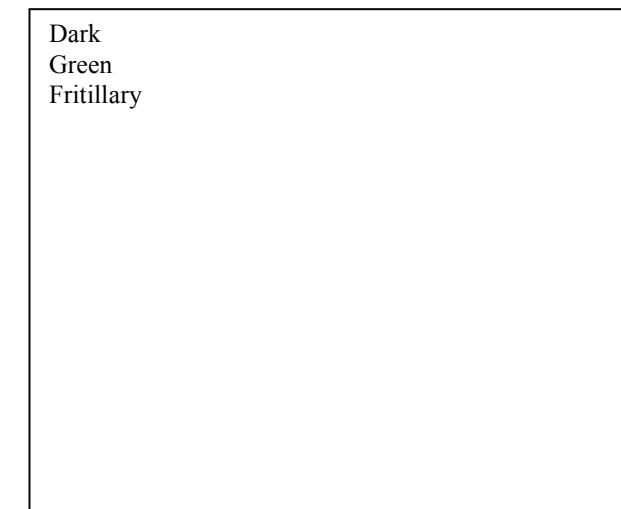
This family of butterflies takes its name from the Latin word for a dice box, fritillus, on account of the regular patterns of spots and well-marked wing veins on their upper wings.

Sadly, all fritillaries have suffered a substantial decrease in numbers over the past decades: some such as the High Brown have completely disappeared from Hampshire and the IoW; and others such as the Marsh Fritillary survive in two or three small, isolated colonies. The chief reason for their decline is the loss of suitable habitat, an all too familiar feature of the twentieth century.



The most common and widely distributed of our fritillaries and also the largest is the **Silver-washed**, usually found in mature woodlands with well-spaced trees and sunny rides with plenty of bramble blossoms. This species has pointed forewings with prominent black spots on the outer half and linked black splotches and lines on the inner half. A silvery wash on the underside gives the species its name. Males are a much brighter orange-brown on the upper

surfaces and have few if any spots at the apex of the forewings. In hot summers a few females appear with an olive-green ground colour which later fades to silvery grey-green, this being the famed *valezina* form of the Silver-washed.

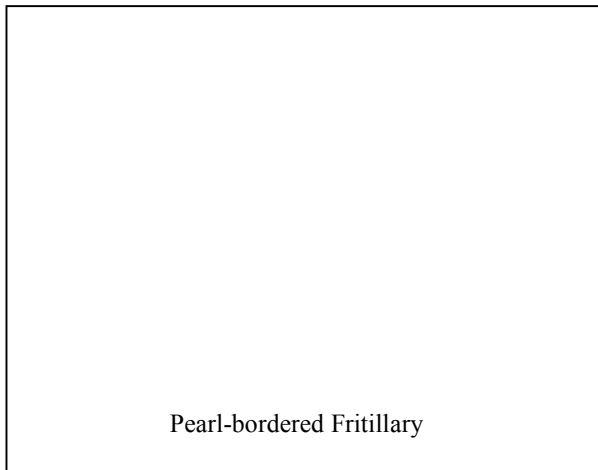


Frequenting more open conditions, including downland, the slightly smaller **Dark Green Fritillary** has rounded wing tips and an obvious black border with brown spots embedded in it, those in the female being noticeably paler than the other areas of brown. The orange-brown upper wings of the males are only slightly brighter than in the females, and the patterns of spots and blotches are virtually the same in both sexes.

The hindwing is heavily marked with olive-green and a series of obvious silver spots.

The **High Brown** is very similar to the Dark Green when viewed from above but has a row of red-brown spots and rings between the two outer rows of silver spots on the underside of the hindwing, and golden brown replaces the olive green. However, Dartmoor, Exmoor and the Malvern Hills are the nearest places you are likely to find this rare butterfly.

High Brown Fritillary

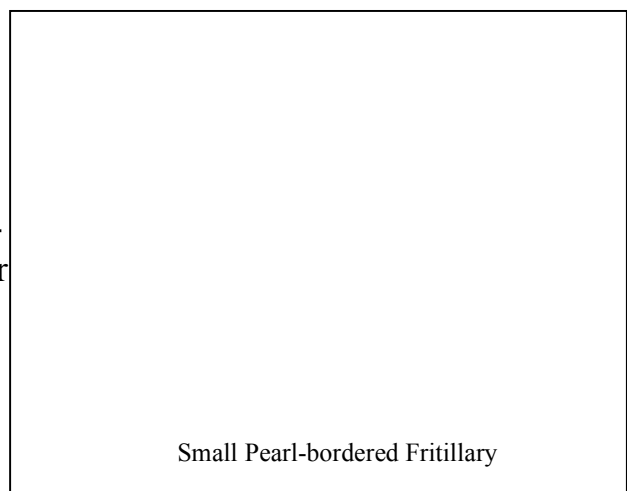


Pearl-bordered Fritillary

There are a few remaining colonies of the two medium-sized “spotted” fritillaries, the **Pearl-bordered** and **Small Pearl-bordered** Fritillaries. Both require recently cleared woodland with freshly exposed violets. The Pearl-bordered flies from late April to mid-June; the Small Pearl-bordered about a month later when most Pearl-bordered are faded and worn. Distinguishing between the

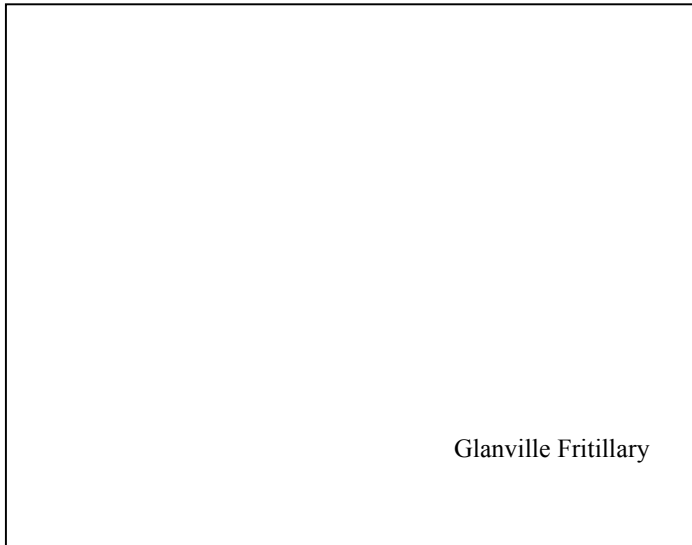
upper surfaces of the two species is not easy. The surest way of making a positive identification is *from the underside*.

Both species have seven silver “pearls” on the underside of the outer margin of the hindwing, but the P-bF has only two or three patches on the basal half of the wing, while the Small P-bF has more, with five in an open ring around a black-centred red-brown cell. Whilst the underside of the P-bF is in shades of orange-brown, ginger and fawn with little in the line of black markings, that of the Small P-bF is darker with red-brown cells and obvious black lines and spots.



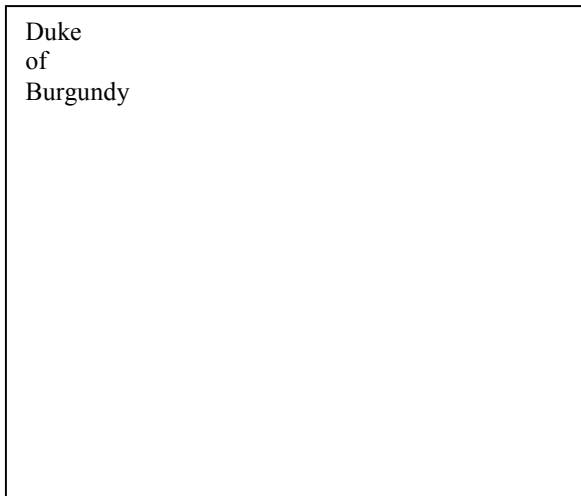
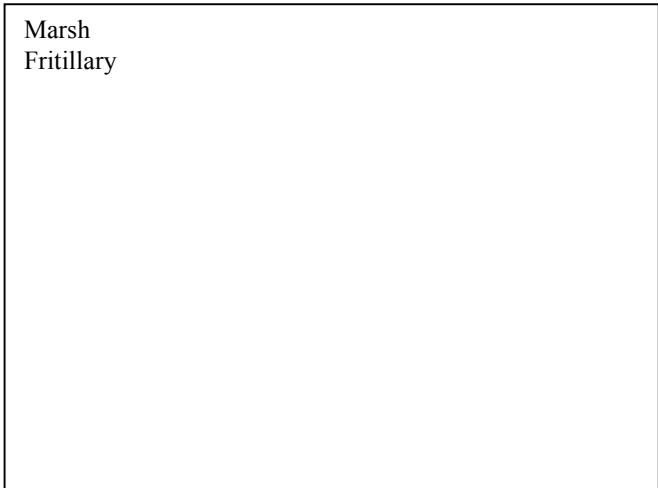
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary

Both the Glanville and Marsh Fritillaries are characterised by bands of colour on upper and lower wing surfaces. The upper surface of the **Glanville** is orange-brown



with a series of black markings dividing the lighter colour into a series of squares or rectangles. The underside, as featured on our Branch's sweatshirts and poloshirts consists of bands of orange-brown and creamy yellow separated by black markings and with a scattering of black spots. The Glanville Fritillary is found on the Isle of Wight, the Channel Islands and at one place on the coast of Hampshire.

The **Marsh Fritillary** has more brightly marked upper surfaces with bands of red-brown and cream separated by black lines. The underside of the hindwing is bright orange-brown with four rows of cream spots on it, the row nearest the margin being paler than the others. The Marsh Fritillary has been the subject of some unofficial releases and has even been found on downland.



One other species is sometimes confused with the fritillaries; the **Duke of Burgundy**, which is a member of the "Metalmarks", has the appearance of a small fritillary. This is more common than the previous five species but like them is declining owing to loss of sheltered habitat with an abundance of cowslips and primroses that this species needs.

Brian Fletcher, Branch Librarian

HEALTH AND SAFETY

THE BUDDY SYSTEM

The following article is by Geoff Hobson, a member of both Dorset and Hampshire Branches.

“I broke my own rules recently, when I went out walking a new route on my own and did not leave any indication where I was going and how long I would be. I decided to walk a bridleway where we had not been before, looking for butterflies or the potential for them. I took the dog with me.

The bridleway is flat and quite even, no risk of falling over anything, not many butterflies, but it was not too warm. I was at least a mile from the nearest people, out of sight and earshot. We came on a gate on the bridleway that was chained and padlocked so I decided that I would climb over the gate and tried to do just that. Next thing I knew I was on the ground with my head spinning! I had fallen backwards off the gate. I had hurt my shoulder and leg also. The worst part was that I still had to get over the gate as I had let go of the dog lead and it was caught in the hedge on the other side. My partner Pat did not get in for another three hours, so if I had been unable to move I could have been there for a long time!

I was lucky that I was not hurt more. As it was I could not do my job properly, and spent the next morning at the hospital, as the nurse was convinced I had broken my shoulder.

The point I am making here is if you must walk alone on a transect or other butterfly walk, tell someone where you are going, when you will finish your walk, and what to do if you do not turn up within a set time. This is common-sense safety, and so easy to arrange. I know some transect-walker organisers feel reluctant to prepare walk-risk assessments but my precaution is basic common sense.

I certainly will not do it again, and I hope this story will encourage everyone to walk with a buddy or leave a message with a buddy.”

Of course I endorse Geoff's views. Buddy cards produced by this Branch are available from me, (address on back pages). Please heed the warning of one of our 'lucky' members.

Alan Hold Branch Safety Officer

LYME DISEASE:

Precautions

As described in the January newsletter, lyme disease is a tick-borne ailment; those who work and walk in the countryside are most at risk. Places where ticks are most likely to occur are long-grass areas, woodlands and heaths. Sensible precautions to avoid the condition include:

Prevention of tick bites: wear long trousers tucked into socks and long-sleeved shirts. Light-coloured clothing makes ticks more visible so that they can be brushed off. Inspect clothes at the end of the day, and when you undress inspect your body for ticks. They usually crawl about for several hours before burying their feeding tube into your skin.

Removal of ticks: if not attached, ticks can easily be picked off and destroyed. If the tick is attached, remove it as soon as possible. The best method is to grasp them as close to the skin as possible (use tweezers) and twist anti-clockwise at the same time as pulling **gently** upwards. It may take several twists before it lets go. Part of the tick may remain embedded, but you will have prevented the tick from transferring the infection to you. You may find that a tick will detach more easily if, before removal, it is covered with petroleum jelly or thick antiseptic cream for 10-15 minutes to suffocate it. If you suspect that mouth parts have been left in the skin consult a doctor, as this may result in local infection by other bacteria.

If any of the symptoms described previously (rash, flu-like symptoms, lymph-gland enlargement) occur after a known tick bite or a visit to an area where ticks are likely to be prevalent, seek advice from your GP and explain that lyme disease might be a possibility. Early detection and treatment normally result in complete recovery. Treatment is by antibiotics; the earlier the diagnosis the better.

Remember: do not let the very small risk of lyme disease spoil your enjoyment of field work in areas where ticks may be found.

MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS

BLUE MORPHO MEMORIES

The Blue Morpho is probably my favourite butterfly, since it is so closely associated with our visits to the rainforests of South America.

Despite the many photos in books, the Blue Morpho seldom lands with its wings open: the dazzling blue iridescence is seen mainly when it is flying. Its seemingly laborious flight is reminiscent of an Apollo, though it flies much higher and is of course much larger. Our first distant glimpse, on the border between Belize and Guatemala, had the extra glamour of being from the top of a Mayan temple, surrounded by jungle. We have since seen it in many equally impressive locations, including Costa Rica, Mexico and other parts of Guatemala.

Two sightings were particularly memorable. The first was in hot jungle at Guayabo in Costa Rica, near a welcome stream. A Blue Morpho suddenly appeared from behind us and flew slowly past. The flight seemed languid, but the deep wing beats are deceptive. The surrounding jungle acted as a magnificent contrast to the Morpho's sudden iridescent flashes of bright blue. We watched it slowly heading away along the stream until the black vegetation engulfed it.

Then last year at Palenque, one of the major Mayan sites, I suddenly became aware of a Blue Morpho right in front of me. I had never seen one so close before. Then it started to fly-dance around my face, hands, legs and boots, displaying that incredible contrast of dark black and sudden flashes of bright blue. It was obviously attracted either by curiosity or the amount of my perspiration, but it didn't land on me. I was left reflecting on what had been my most memorable and closest encounter with this lovely butterfly.

Richard Stewart, Ipswich

THE THIRD ELM

Of the three elm species indigenous to Europe, the least known in the UK is unequivocally the European White or Spreading Elm, *Ulmus laevis*. It is potentially a very large tree equal in stature to the Wych and English Elms of old, but it differs in many other ways.

The White Elm's closest relative is the American Elm *Ulmus americana*, and it cannot hybridise with its European cousins. Moreover, it is one of those rare species that thrive in flooded conditions; a tree that enjoys "getting its feet wet". Most elms are pH tolerant and capable of growing on the poorest of soils so long as they are well-drained, but the White Elm is most commonly encountered along the banks of the great central and eastern European rivers such as the Danube and the Volga. Its natural range westward extends as far as central France, but distribution is very localised.

Research at the *Ressources Génétiques* station in Burgundy revealed that the White Elm is eschewed by the bark beetles that act as vectors for Dutch Elm Disease. Injected with the disease fungus, the tree, like all its European and American counterparts, promptly dies; left to nature however, it usually remains unscathed. This unique distinction is corroborated by its history in the UK. Planted as ornamentals, many still survive today as mature trees, notably along the Cornish coast near Torpoint, where the "native" (archaeophytic) elms have all succumbed. Indeed, the greatest threat to the White Elm on the continent is posed by deforestation, not disease.

The White Elm, which is commonly used as larval host plant by the White-letter Hairstreak in Europe, clearly has great significance for the conservation of this butterfly, especially in areas like south-east Hampshire, with its abundance of clay soils which are often waterlogged in winter.

Propagation

Trees can be easily raised from seed or cuttings: germination is straightforward; no pre-treatment is required and seeds should be sown to a depth of <6mm in ordinary compost, results should be evident within a fortnight. Avoid old seed however, as all elm seed aged more than six months is rarely viable unless it has been carefully dried and stored at sub-zero temperatures.

Propagation by cuttings, too, is quite simple: tips collected in early summer, dipped in a rooting hormone and inserted in a medium comprising equal measures (by volume) of Perlite, peat and sand should root within two months. Trees potted-on must always be planted out within two years, as elms develop tap-roots quickly.

Andrew Brookes, Leader, S.E. Area Group

M O T H S

NATIONAL MOTH NIGHT

Saturday 22 May 2004

Two of the three target species for National Moth Night have been recorded in our area:

1679 False Mocha *Cyclophora porata*

This Nationally Scarce species has declined in many areas, though it still occurs over a wide area of southern England and more locally in Wales. It was recorded before the war in Parkhurst Forest on the Isle of Wight but not since. In Hampshire it was found mainly at Alice Holt and in the New Forest, where it was last seen in 1991 at Roydon Woods. It appears to require open, sunny, coppiced oak or areas of small oak bushes in order to thrive and these conditions are largely lacking nowadays.

1982 Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-moth *Hemaris tityus*

This unusual day-flying BAP Priority Species resembles a bumblebee. It inhabits downland, woodland and heathland, primarily in the western half of the British Isles. It is best looked for in sunny weather where the foodplant, Devil's-bit Scabious, grows it and may be seen visiting flowers for nectar. A good tip is to take a bunch of lilac flowers with you when searching for this moth – the strong-smelling scent and nectar are apparently irresistible.

Prizes will be given by the National organisers for:-

1. **Most notable record of a resident species (Macrolepidoptera).**

This may be a species not recorded locally for some time, or a scarce species at a new site. The winner will receive a professionally made collapsible moth-trap, complete with electrics and waterproof control box, donated by Anglian Lepidopterist Supplies. Choice of a 125W mercury vapour or a 15W actinic trap available. If you have enough moth-traps the prize can be donated to your local wildlife trust, local nature reserve, etc., on your behalf.

2. **Most notable record of a resident species (Microlepidoptera).**

This may be a species not recorded locally for some time, or a scarce species at a new site. The winner will receive a copy of *The Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland Volume 4* donated by the publisher, Harley Books.

3. **Rarest immigrant species recorded.**

InsectLine will award the winner a £50 book token, which can be used to purchase titles from the Atropos Books (valid for two years).

If you have any ideas for events on the day or in the evening please let me know.

Tim Norriss, Moth Officer

THORN IDENTIFICATION

A recent conversation with another moth-er regarding his unprompted withdrawal of some Purple Thorn records noted early in his moth-er's career prompted me to check when I last saw this species. To my surprise it was back in 1997. A lot of the confusion over this and other Thorn species arises from the fact that Skinner in his *Moths of the British Isles* gives few tips on identifying live moths.

Purple Thorn and **Early Thorn** are the only two in the group that are double brooded; both are on the wing from March to May and again in July and August. **Early Thorn** is very much the commoner of the two but, owing to its habit of sitting with its wings tightly closed, it is often difficult for the beginner to separate it from the similar-looking **Purple Thorn** using Skinner, which shows just the upperside view. By this habit alone, however, the **Early Thorn** is immediately distinguishable from the other Thorns, which all hold their wings half-open when settled. This feature is mentioned and clearly illustrated in the new *Field Guide to the Moths of Great Britain and Ireland* by Waring, Townsend and Lewington.

The flight period of the other five Thorn species overlaps with the second brood of the two mentioned above. Despite its name, the **September Thorn** is often the first to emerge in early July, thus adding to the confusion. These early individuals are paler than those emerging later but generally have a straighter postmedian line that meets the leading edge of the forewing at a more oblique angle. They also hold their wings flatter than the **August Thorn**, with which there can be considerable confusion. The **Dusky Thorn** is similar in size and structure but lacks the shaded area outside the postmedian line.

Canary-shouldered Thorn is generally distinctive, with its contrasted bright-yellow thorax and richly coloured speckled wings, although the females' wings are paler. In Kent, and maybe elsewhere, a buff-thoraxed form is found towards the end of the species' flight period – a trap for the unwary. **Large Thorn** is the latest to emerge, in mid to late August. Occurring only at a few sites near the coast east of Southampton, it was found for the first time last summer on the Isle of Wight.

Finally, there are few records in our area for the **Lunar Thorn** but it should cause the careful observer no confusion. It is a suspected immigrant.

References

- Brown, D.C.G.**, 2002. Identification Workshop: Separating Purple Thorn *Selenia tetralunaria*, Lunar Thorn *S. lunularia* and Early Thorn *S. dentaria*. *Atropos* 16:24.
- Brown, D.C.G.**, 2002. Identification Workshop: Separating August Thorn *Ennomos quercinaria*, September Thorn *E. erosaria* and Canary-shouldered Thorn *S. alniaria*. *Atropos* 17:34.
- Skinner, B.**, 1984. *Moths of the British Isles*. Viking.
- Waring, P., Townsend, M., Lewington, R.**, 2003. *Field Guide to the Moths of Great Britain and Ireland*. British Wildlife Publishing.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We warmly welcome the following new members who have joined us recently. We hope you will take advantage of your membership by joining in some of our events scheduled for this season.

Mr G Broomfield, Southampton; Mr & Mrs R Buchanan, Chandlers Ford; Dr C Dalton, Swaythling; Mr & Mrs J Garland, Farnham, Surrey; Mr & Mrs S Kinlochan, Bramdean; Mr AC Martin, Poole, Dorset; Mr M McCrea, Whitminster, Glos; Mrs K Nunney, Ringwood; Mr J Reed, IoW; Ms A Seale, Ventnor, IoW; Ms HA Verschoore, Headley Down; Mr H Webb, Fareham; Mr A White, Clanfield.

DATA PROTECTION ACT

Our Society is registered under the Data Protection Act and our Branch is allowed to keep membership records and butterfly records on computer. Our Branch will not disclose any membership information to outside parties.

THE WEBSITE

WHY WATCH THE WEBSITE?

Seven good reasons to visit our Website

- Excellent, easy-to-follow layout.
- Descriptions of all our Reserves, with maps of their locations, plus regular updates and info re. work parties and walks.
- Daily 'sightings' throughout the year, (including moths in winter), often with brilliant photographs.
- Where to go to see what, & when.
- Direct links to other good sites, e.g. HOS and Flora Search (comprehensive identification scheme), also some other branches have excellent sites, e.g. Dorset.
- Recording sheets available for downloading - or record online.
- Link to National, though this site is seldom updated.

Visit it to learn more.

www.butterfly-conservation.org/hantsiow/