



**Butterfly Conservation
Friends of Bentley Station
Meadow Butterfly Reserve**

Newsletter – Spring 2006

Dates for your Diary

Walks: All at 10.30am meeting in the Car Park at Bentley Station, (SU792 432). Park in Station Road or pay in car park. Leader Lynn Fomison.

Monday 1st May

Spring Saunter. A stroll through Butterfly Conservation's Bentley Station meadow reserve and the adjoining Alice Holt Forest to see spring flowers and butterflies. Kissing gates, but no stiles. Some wet areas. Children most welcome.

Saturday 8th July

Summer Stroll: A walk through Butterfly Conservation's Bentley Station Meadow nature reserve and the adjoining Alice Holt Forest at one of the best times of the year to see woodland butterflies and summer flowers in the meadow

Thursday 27th July

Sharing Nature with Children. Come and celebrate "Save our Butterfly Week" with us - a leisurely short walk with butterfly games for parents and children at Butterfly Conservation's Bentley Station Meadow reserve. A family walk; carry a small picnic with you to eat towards the end if you wish. Kissing gates but no stiles.

Tuesday 29th August

Sharing Nature with Children. A leisurely short walk with butterfly games for parents and children at Butterfly Conservation's Bentley Station Meadow reserve. Carry a small picnic with you to eat towards the end if you wish. Kissing gates but no stiles

For further information on any of the above events please contact Lynn Fomison on 01962 772251

Save Our Butterflies Week

21st – 31st July is Save our Butterfly Week. Check the web site for details of more events closer to the date.

Marina Christopher will be having a special display during Save Out Butterflies Week at her nursery, Phoenix Plants, Paice Lane, Medstead. Some of you will remember Marina Christopher from Green Plants at Bentley. She was an early friend of BSM and will be pleased to see you. The nursery is open every Thursday, Friday and Saturday through spring, summer and autumn.

Sad News

Many of you will remember Eric Hale who was of great assistance and inspiration in helping BC to acquire the meadow. We heard the sad news in December that he had passed away. Lynn sent a card of condolence to his family saying we would treasure his memory and the practical and financial assistance he had given us.

Good News

Lynn spoke to Peter and Nellie Beale on 30th December. They had just celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on Christmas Eve with all their family. They are both keeping well – Peter was just putting slides together for a new talk! They had visited the meadow in August and were pleased to see it was looking in good shape.

BC received a donation via Maureen Thomas – a fee for a talk at the Binsted Society that the speaker wanted to donate to BSM. It will be used towards the cost of illustrations relating to BSM in the new colour leaflet "Havens for Butterflies in Hampshire" that we are just producing.

Ken Jones responded to Lynn's request for bird boxes and provided 6 very des res for birds. This



followed Lynn's concern that a Great Tit was about to nest in the leaflet box!

A good web site to visit is Ron Allen's soil and water pages at www.soilandwater.co.uk with lots of interesting info on the geology of Hampshire.

In the Meadow

Thelma Smalley has sent in a report of the first transect of the year at Bentley Station Meadow (SU792432) on 5th April, seeing 3 Brimstones and 3 Commas. She says "First transect of the year. Temperature was just about high enough to record but the sunshine made up for it. Clusters of primroses and celandine were starting to appear and the 'pussy willow' looked lovely with the sun on it. Plenty of bumblebees were around.

Sue Clark popped round to BSM on 22nd April, to photograph some violets and was thrilled to see 2 Brimstones egg-laying on the buds of Buckthorn by the railway. (Some of you might remember helping to set these many years back?)

Sue also commented that the primroses were looking lovely.

Lynn loves to receive observations in the meadow, either by email or by transect walkers' notes on the weekly sheet. These details are so helpful in the compilation of the annual report.

Winter Management Work

It is pleasing to report that we got all the work done that we planned and that the reserve is looking in great shape.

Summer Work

Patrick Fleet will undertake the usual summer work of keeping the path around the butterfly transect cut. As well as making it safer for walkers we find the butterflies like these shorter areas too. He will also tackled bracken and docks and selective cutting of nettles. We plan to keep several areas of the meadow mown again. This is helping to reduce Bramble and producing good

habitat for Common Blue and Brown Argus to breed. This cutting also yields a few more flowers in the autumn.

Newsletter

Lynn has written much of this newsletter - apologies for any errors/omissions.

Items welcomed from anyone who visits the Meadow. Please send any items for the Autumn 2006 Newsletter to Lynn by 30th August 2006. Contact details in "Bentley Station Meadow Who's Who".

Bentley Station Meadow Who's Who

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Branch Website
<http://www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk>

National Web site
<http://www.butterfly-conservation.org>

