

Editorial

We have decided that the Diary of Events and programme of field meetings, which have in the past both been incorporated in the Newsletter, should be issued as a separate leaflet (sent out with this Newsletter). This leaflet gives details of all the season's events, which include field meetings (butterfly walks, moth evenings), any talks, walks and events on our reserves, and the shows which we are attending.

We hope that you will find this innovation useful: it would be helpful to hear members' reactions to the change of format so that we can decide whether to continue with it. Please send comments to me or any Committee member.

Juliet Bloss, Editor

Chairman's Report

At our social afternoon in February Andy Barker threw down the gauntlet of a Brimstone sighting 'within the next fortnight', this despite the cold damp spell persisting, with sunshine a rare commodity. As usual, he proved right and a report from Alresford soon appeared on the sightings page of our Branch web-site. The social afternoon, as before, was an enjoyable reflection on the past season and a good way of enhancing anticipation of the new one. Saturday afternoon proved a satisfactory time for this event, which will be on a Saturday next year, again in late February.

It is clear that many Branch members are becoming extremely skilled photographers – "have become" might be a better tense! Reflecting this enthusiasm, Peter Eeles is running another of his excellent courses on 24 April, now an established and popular training event. If there is a demand, we are very happy to run extra walks or field trips specifically to help develop photographic skills; please contact me personally if this is something you would like the Branch to do.

I mention the web-site regularly in these jottings and I make no apologies for doing so again. The Members' section is being developed steadily; in tandem with this, we very much hope to be able to enhance our use of e-mail for Branch notices to members who elect to be contacted in this way.

The Branch was visited recently by one of the BC trustees. This provided an opportunity for us to discuss relations with Head Office and to suggest ways in which they might be further enhanced. It is recognised that BC has grown steadily to become a very effective, well regarded organisation. This is an

appropriate moment for the Organisation to plan for the next 5-10 years: the development of the branches is an important part of the consideration of how Head Office itself should move forward. There is to be a meeting of Branch Chairs with trustees later this year: it is important to us that we receive advice and comments from you as to how you would like the Branch (and the charity itself) to develop. We can then feed these into the consultation process. At the risk of further repetition, could I ask for help in respect of education. BC is very keen to encourage children's interest in butterflies and moths; so too is the Branch. If any of you are from a teaching background, or are teachers, and would like to help us with our consideration of how best to promote an education programme, please will you contact me to discuss this further.

Finally, this Newsletter contains information about our season's programme of events – this time as a separate leaflet. I hope that you are able to take advantage of the opportunities afforded by the programme and that we have a good season.

My thanks in advance to all my colleagues who organise and run these important events.

Roger Buchanan, Chairman

New Branch Members since Jan 2010 Newsletter

The Branch welcomes the following new members. We have an interesting summer programme of walks and events and hope you will join us on some of them.

Mrs J Beckmann, Overton; Mr CR & Mrs HM Brown, Liphook; Mr D Calder, Woodlands, Southampton; Mr W Dreier, Stubbington; Ms AR Evans, Badger Farm; Mr M Hall, Hambledon; Mr P Ingate, Middleton on Sea, West Sussex; Mr T Kitts, Pennington; Ms E Knowles, Ventnor, IoW; Mr N Lawrence, Whitehill, Bordon; Mr PF Little, Waterlooville; Mr R Ridout, Winchester; Mrs S Wharmby, Newport, IoW.

Butterflies and Buddlejas **Saturday 24 July and Sunday 25 July** **Open: 10.30am – 4.30pm**

Come and see butterflies at the National Buddleja Collection in the attractive setting of Longstock Park Nursery, Nr Stockbridge SO20 6EH. Among other attractions there will be optional guided walks and talks, and activities for children. Refreshments will be available and picnics will be permitted. Admission and parking will both be free, so put the date in your diary, bring your friends and family and come and enjoy a relaxing time in beautiful surroundings.

You will find a flyer enclosed with this Newsletter advertising the event: please display it locally or give it to a friend.

Butterfly Recording in 2010

How to send in your records:

Paper recording forms: there are two standard recording forms enclosed with this Newsletter, which may also be downloaded from our web-site.

1. **Butterfly Site Recording Form** (green), which should be completed when visiting the **same site on a number of occasions**.
2. **Casual Record Form** (yellow), which should be completed when visiting a **number of different sites** during the season.

When completing these forms please enter **actual numbers seen** and **not** the letter codes A, B, C, D and E. (See Recording Guidelines below).

The number of records continues to increase each year. Submission of data electronically saves us time and would be greatly appreciated. However, if you do not have a computer please continue to send your data in on the paper recording forms: we welcome all records.

Electronic Recording: there are three easy ways to send us data electronically:

1. **Sightings Form** on the website, which you complete and send on-line. This data is displayed on the sightings page and subsequently entered onto our database.
2. **Excel Spreadsheet:** if you wish to send your records using a spreadsheet **please contact me and I will e-mail you a spreadsheet template with instructions**. This is designed to enable quick and easy data entry in a tabulated format (see Recording Guidelines below).
3. **MapMate:** if you want to send in your data via MapMate please contact Dave Green (contact details on back page).

We are currently developing a new electronic recording form to be accessed via the web-site which will allow easy submission of records. Look out for news of this development on the Branch web-site.

Please remember: for a complete record we always require the following information:

Name of recorder	Butterfly species name
Date seen	Site name
Grid reference	Number seen

Garden data: When sending in records from your garden please record the earliest and latest sighting and peak count for each species, rather than everything you see each day.

Grid references: the Ordnance Survey has a web-site which explains how to read grid references. Visit:

www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/gi/nationalgrid/nghelp1.html or contact me for some written instructions. If you would like to know the grid reference for your **garden**, contact me with your **postcode**.

What and Where to Record

Tetrad Recording: 2009 was the last year of the five-year (2005-2009) recording period. In the April 2009 Newsletter I listed 45 tetrads (2 x 2km squares) for which we didn't have data for the period 2005-2008 and asked members to contact me for a tetrad to survey in an effort to reduce the number missing to zero by the end of 2009. I would like to thank everyone who took part in this survey. We nearly made the target: we received data for 42 tetrads, leaving just three not surveyed. As there are 1,180 tetrads in Hampshire and the IOW, data for 1,177 squares means a coverage of 99.75%.

This year we are starting again with a blank map, so please feel free to record wherever you like. If, however, you would like a particular tetrad to work on, or you would like to carry on with the tetrad you had before, please contact me. If you are new to tetrad recording either you can select your own tetrad or I could advise you of one in your area.

Although we eventually achieved a nearly 100% coverage there are still certain areas in the county which are under-recorded in that we have records for some species but feel that other species are probably present but have not been recorded. One area in question is the south-eastern part of the New Forest. Although we are only in the first year of the five-year recording period it would be good to make an early start. Please contact me if you would like advice on where to go in this area.

Recording Guidelines

Apart from the mention of a new electronic recording scheme the information on the first page of this article is much the same as in previous years, but **please read it**. We received more records for 2009 than ever, but the number of people processing the data remains the same. We would be **extremely grateful** if you could help us by noting these few time-saving points:

Paper records

Please record **numbers** rather than the letter codes A, B, C, D and E. Don't worry if you think you have missed some butterflies or have slightly over-counted and, if you have to estimate, a figure of 30-40 tells us more than "category D". The recording forms we send out are printed for the South-East Region, not just our Branch. Since some other Branches prefer to use letter

codes the forms are printed with them, but as we really need numbers we have gone through all the forms and crossed out the letter codes.

Recording butterflies on walks which cross more than one 1km square

We are always pleased to receive data from walks in the wider countryside, but there is a slight problem if the walk takes in more than one 1km square. For example, a walk from Steventon Warren Farm (SU536456) to Bassett Farm, Steventon (SU544475) goes through four different 1km squares; if there is just one set of data I do not know which butterflies were seen in which square. We can enter only one grid reference for each set of data. Unless you have a GPS it isn't always easy to determine when you pass from one 1km square to another, but you may get some idea by studying a map. Sometimes a path will take you through a small area of a 1km square: if it is difficult to establish where you are don't spent an unreasonable amount of time working it out; just concentrate on the main squares the path goes through. In addition, in the case of my example, you will have four lists to do instead of one. I hope this hasn't put you off recording butterflies while out walking but I needed to tell you why we have to have data for each 1km square.

Data and general comments

General comments about butterflies and how you think they have fared during the season are always very welcome and are often used in the *Butterfly and Moth Report*, but I would be grateful if all actual counts are recorded on one of the two paper forms, or electronically, as it is much easier to extract data from a form rather than taking it from text.

Spreadsheets

We would like to encourage as many recorders as possible to send their records in on spreadsheets, but **please contact me first so that I can send you a copy of our spreadsheet rather than use your own version.** Our spreadsheet is set up in such a way that it is easy to add to our database; problems can occur when transferring to our database if the data is not on one of our spreadsheets. In addition, the spreadsheet comes with a set of instructions telling you, for instance, to record dates in the format 23/07/2010; there is also a list of butterfly names to ensure, for example, that Orange-tip is written as such and not "Orange Tip".

I hope you will all have an enjoyable butterfly season and I look forward to seeing your records latter in the year.

Linda Barker, Butterfly Recorder

Reserves News

“Difficult!” is the word to describe the situation at the reserves in what was the worst winter for many years. Bad weather caused us to cancel several work parties and the visits to Bentley Station Meadow arranged for Bentley Scouts. The other problem at Bentley was that the heavy snowfall broke off large limbs from several of the oak trees and willows, uprooted a number of old blackthorns which were the size of small trees, and flattened numerous other blackthorn bushes. We had to employ a contractor to cut the branches to a manageable size and we had three special work parties to clear up. And still we did not finish it all, but we did get everything off the grassland.

At Magdalen Hill Down and Yew Hill, where we had cattle when the cold weather set in and the snow fell, there was a different set of problems, which made it very hard work for our graziers, Sarah and Chris Jackson, and for David Askew, a neighbour of Yew Hill who checked the cattle daily. The main problem was a frozen water supply to the troughs. After it snowed Chris and Sarah could not remove the cattle as the lanes to their farm were too snowy and icy. Once the grass was covered in snow feed had to be brought to the cattle. Luckily, some bales of haylage made at the extension in 2008 were available - so we were not importing alien seeds! These problems meant we did not graze MHD for quite as long as we would have liked. However, the sheep have been grazing North Down since 27 February, so we are making up for the grazing time lost in January.

Pleasant weather in early March helped us catch up on work at MHD as the extra work parties were well supported. Exciting news from MHD is that we have just had three new chalk scrapes created on the Extension. The five originally created in 1997 have been such a success that we decided to do some more close by.

The hawk-eyed among you will have noticed that Ken Willmott no longer appears as adviser for Bentley Station Meadow. In recent years Ken’s time has been taken up with Surrey’s butterflies. He continues to be willing to give us the historical perspective or specialist advice when needed. The Reserves Subcommittee is very grateful to Ken for his long involvement with the Meadow.

Colin Matthews ceased to be Voluntary Reserve Manager for Yew Hill at the end of January 2010, after filling this role for many years. Colin will continue to serve on the Reserves Subcommittee and on reserve management groups and give help and support in many other ways,

Bentley Station Meadow Parking

Please note: the recent installation of double yellow lines in Station Road seriously restricts the amount of roadside parking. Much of the little that remains is often taken by users of the station. On weekdays the station car park is usually full, but there are spaces at weekends and weekday evenings.

Lynn Fomison, Reserves Officer

South-East Area Group News

Argies to the rescue

The restoration of the Hook Heath SSSI by HWT was aided and abetted last year by some unusual allies, namely 10 Argentine *Criollo* polo ponies. With access to the site restricted to the public footpath through Pinsley Copse, driving the intended herd of Dexter cattle through to the lower meadow was considered too hazardous. Not so for the ponies, which obediently strolled Indian-file to the site, where they demolished all the proscribed scrub in just eight weeks. It is hoped to repeat the exercise this year in the upper meadow adjoining Pigeonhouse Lane.

The *Criollo* has a fascinating history. In the early 15th century Andalusian horses were shipped from Cadiz to Buenos Aires. The new settlement and the horses were abandoned shortly afterwards owing to the revolting natives. The Spaniards returned over 40 years later to discover a feral herd of supremely hardy animals several thousand strong, having evolved a very catholic appetite to survive the drought and cold of the Pampas.

Havant Borough BAP

The Group was represented at the Havant BAP workshop on 25 March. The event was well attended, with delegates from the Forestry Commission, Natural England, and other conservation bodies. The borough, considered too urbanized to warrant a Countryside Officer, is of very limited significance to butterflies: its chief claim to conservation fame being the wetlands in Langstone and Chichester Harbours as wading bird habitat. Moreover, most of the undeveloped terrestrial area is a patchwork of small privately-owned plots, with owners generally unsympathetic to conservation initiatives. Attention was duly drawn to the southern extremities of Hayling Island, which host the Grayling, and to the presence of White Admirals and peripatetic Purple Emperors in the council-owned Hollybank Woods.

Andrew Brookes, Leader, S-E Area Group

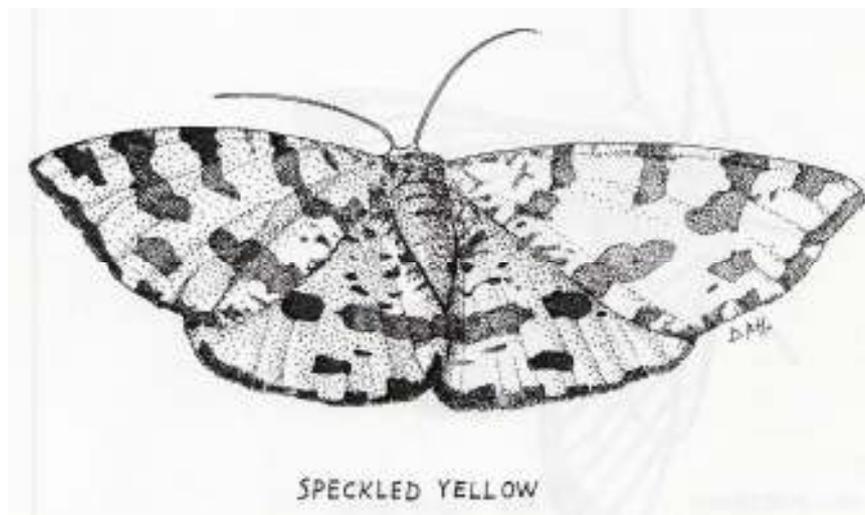
Publicity

Have you noticed that more people seem to be taking an interest in butterflies and moths? I have. I'm finding that family members, friends and neighbours are telling me they have read an article in a newspaper or watched something on the television about butterflies or moths, and they are asking me questions.

Butterflies and moths are definitely getting a "higher profile" these days. This is wonderful because the result is more BC members and more people becoming sympathetic to butterfly and moth conservation. The amount of publicity has been growing at quite a pace over the last few years. We have had some wonderful exposure, with articles in many newspapers and magazines, both national and local, and we've been mentioned on many television programmes, varying from news items to the One Show and Spring Watch, and our own Matthew Oates has become quite a media star. All of this is the result of publicity. Although we may not think much about it, the more publicity we achieve, the better things will be for our conservation work.

I have enjoyed being the Branch publicity officer for several years now but, as I will be moving away shortly, I am unable to continue in the position. Dealing with publicity is interesting and very rewarding when you see the results of your efforts. I have a lot of help from other Committee members as well as the staff at head office. It is important that our Branch has a publicity officer and I am very anxious to find my replacement as soon as possible. If you think you might be interested in taking on this job please get in touch with me to discuss what is involved. As with all Committee tasks, we are volunteers and not expected to be professionals. Whether you can spare a few hours a month or a few hours a week, any time given is extremely appreciated.

Janet Jones, Tel: 01252 842174, janet@mauvedrop.com



English Moth Recorders Conference 23 January 2010

This event was well attended by around 120 people including speakers and stand-sellers. Tim Norriss and Mike Wall attended as County Recorders for the Hampshire vice-counties for macro and micro moths respectively.

Maurice Avant, National Chairman of Butterfly Conservation, gave the welcome address. He had consulted the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations for quotes relating to moths, none of which (unsurprisingly) were at all complimentary. So many people have yet to discover the magic of moths! However, the lectures by Richard Fox on the growth of the Moths Count project, Zoe Randle on the National Moth Recording Scheme (NMRS) and Dave Grundy as Garden Moth Scheme Co-ordinator illustrated the massive growth in the amount of recording now being done. Richard reassured us that Butterfly Conservation is committed to continuing the NMRS after lottery funding runs out, albeit with fewer staff and fewer training events. The lecture by Dr Eleanor Slade, on a landscape-scale study of woodland moths undertaken by the University of Oxford and involving volunteer recorders on placement from HSBC bank, demonstrated that this study had had similar success in stimulating people's interest in mothing. A county-level perspective was provided by Adrian Russell, who spoke on changing moth distributions in Leicestershire and Rutland.

“Extreme Mothing” was the title of the lecture given by Dr Paul Waring: it covered extreme locations, such as the most tranquil place, the noisiest place, the coldest, the hottest, etc. One African venue provided his highest moth count ever. All the locations were beautifully illustrated and wittily described by Paul.

Dr Adrian Spalding concentrated on the ecology of the Sandhill Rustic, which has four sub-species in its four different coastal locations. He has made an intensive study of *leechi*. Interestingly, this sub-species was found at Loe Bar in Cornwall by Barry Goater in the 1970s. Adrian showed pictures illustrating how this moth appeared to swim well and could also remain under water for some time. His observations have shown that the females do not fly much but instead prefer to walk over the sand from one plant to the next when laying.

The wonderful day of lectures was brought to a close by Dr Roy Sexton, whose subject, “Darwin, moths and butterfly orchids”, made for a fascinating and well illustrated talk on the interaction between insects and orchids. He promised one day to write up his work but in the meantime he urged moth-ers take their traps to meadows with flowering orchids and identify the different moth species that pollinate them (just as Darwin's son had done over 100 years ago). Pyramidal, Fragrant and the two Butterfly Orchids are all moth-pollinated.

When a moth visits the flowers for nectar the plant's pollinia become stuck to the moth's proboscis or eyes ready to fertilise the next flowers that are visited. These pollinia are easy to see, and Roy would be pleased to receive your photos and reports. He already has a number of photos showing this process quite clearly (including a remarkable shot of a Hummingbird Hawk-moth in flight leaving a Pyramidal Orchid with pollinia attached to its proboscis), but he is keen to learn of all the moth species that pollinate the different orchids. Another point of interest is that the different petals of the orchids produce different scents, which Roy believes enable moths to find the flowers in complete darkness and to place themselves in the best position on the flower to trigger the complex pollination process which in turn ensures that the flowers are not self-pollinated.

Lynn Fomison



Straw Dot Moth

BC International Symposium, Reading University
26-28 March.

Quite a few Branch members attended the symposium. Inspiration a-plenty was provided by the opening remarks of our President, Sir David Attenborough, who acknowledged that we had been drawn to lepidoptera by our love of these creatures. It was a very perceptive comment and drew smiles around the lecture theatre. He extolled the beauty of butterflies, calling them "*flying visions of summer*". But he saw our interest as having a very serious side. He paid tribute to our knowledge of lepidoptera, suggesting that because we knew how to conserve butterflies we knew how to conserve landscapes and the environment. "*Never in the world has there been a greater need than now for people like you.*"

So, as you go about enjoying butterflies and endeavouring to save and promote them, think of Sir David's words and remember that our love of butterflies and moths is very special.

The focus of many of the lectures was how butterflies have been faring all around the world. In many cases the answer was "not good", but there were also examples of successes at site and species level, and delegates left with an overwhelming determination to see the world become a better place for butterflies.

Lynn Fomison

Woodland Conference

Thursday 25 March

The Woodland Conference that preceded the Symposium on Thursday 25 March was attended by around 400 people; they heard top-class speakers on all aspects of woodland: woodland ecology, butterflies, plants, mammals, birds, dead-wood specialists and charcoal-making. On this last point: choose your barbeque charcoal carefully: Homebase sells a charcoal produced by Bioregional which is made by traditional coppicing of woodland (<http://www.bioregionalhomegrown.co.uk/>). You can help butterflies while you cook your burgers and bangers!

The day had been largely organised by our Regional Officer, Dan Hoare, and was a complete sell-out. One eminent speaker described it as one of the best woodland conferences he had attended. Pleasingly, many of the delegates were from outside Butterfly Conservation - indicating a massive concern for woodland wildlife and an interest in how woodland management can achieve better woodland habitat. The main message was that woodland with a diversity of tree and shrub species, with broad rides and clearings (perhaps even grazed) and with coppiced areas of uneven ages benefits not just butterflies and moths but all wildlife.

Lynn Fomison

Moth Conference

Saturday 13 March

This meeting was chaired by Andy Barker and made for a most splendid and informative afternoon. Tim Norriss and Mike Wall gave an overview of the mothing year in 2009 and discussed which species had fared well and not so well, using the 115,000 moth records that have been submitted so far. Tim then spoke about 11 rare or declining regional macro moths (Dark Marbled Carpet, Argent and Sable, Annulet, Plumed Prominent, Garden Dart, Double Dart, Triple-spotted Clay, Silvery Arches, Dark Brocade, Anomalous, and Shoulder-striped Clover) and asked us to look out for them.

Mike spoke on the recent colonists and adventives in our region, from the tiny Horse Chestnut Leaf-miner *Cameraria ohridella* to the large Rosy Underwing *Catocala electa*, which turned up for the first time on the Isle of Wight last year.

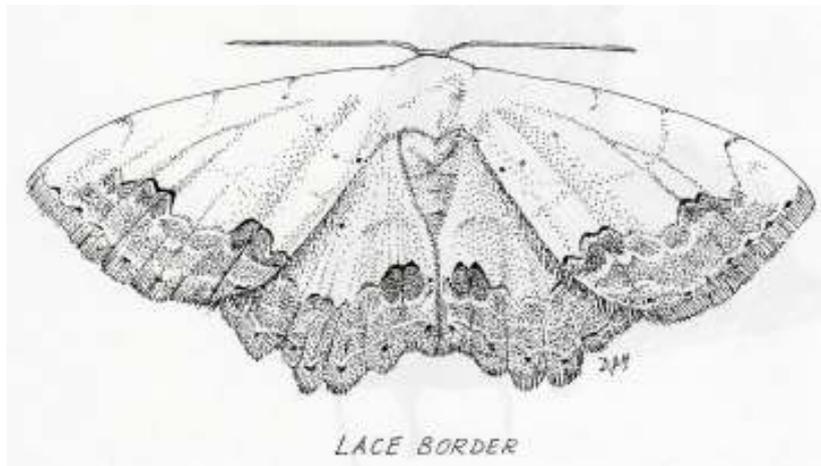
After the interval Maurice Pugh showed some stunning photos of moths taken in his own garden and gave some tips on how to get a good picture (lichen twigs make a good setting with a plain background).

Lynn Fomison described how the management of the reserves (in particular leaving patches of scrub for shelter and additional food plants) benefited moth species as well as butterflies, although we don't know enough about the ecology of many species to plan properly for them.

Dave Green spoke about the Apennines in Italy and Farm Lator in Hungary, two splendid foreign mothing locations where species which are great rarities or non-existent in the UK are common and easy to see. He also talked about different moth lamps suitable for foreign travel and how to set them up.

About 30 people attended, and all those moth-ers who did not missed a really excellent event, including the chance to meet others and hold informal discussions during a decently lengthy tea interval. I, for one, hope that it will be repeated next year.

Juliet Bloss



by Douglas Hammersley

National Moth Night 2010: Saturday 15 May

National Moth Night (NMN) is the UK's annual celebration of moths and moth recording. The date of this event (launched in 1999) varies each year to focus the recording effort on different parts of the season. It was founded by *Atropos* and is now run jointly with Butterfly Conservation.

National Moth Night 2010 takes place on **Saturday 15 May**, with the theme "*Moths and Bats*". These creatures of the night are closely linked ecologically (moths are an important food source for many bat species) and in terms of the human pressure that they face. Both moths and bats have shown long-term declines and both are much maligned and misunderstood.

The predator and prey relationship between bats and moths has led to a fascinating evolutionary "arms race". Over millions of years, some moths have evolved ears to detect hunting bats and a range of evasion manoeuvres to avoid being caught. The tiger moths even make noises to deter or confuse bats.

Nevertheless, bats are amazing hunters and many of the larger species are highly specialised predators of moths.

NMN is the perfect excuse to go out and record moths, whether at your usual site or somewhere new. This year the “*Moths and Bats*” theme provides an excellent opportunity to engage the public, or just family, friends and neighbours, in the wonders of nocturnal wildlife with both moth-trapping and bat-detecting. If you would like to advertise an event please contact Tim Norriss or Mike Wall, or if you would like to know what events have been organised please use the Hantsmoths or Branch web-site nearer the time, or contact Tim or Mike. (See below.)

Whatever you do on NMN, please submit your moth and bat records to us to be passed on to the national scheme. If you use MapMate please send us a sync file with your records in the usual way as soon as possible after the event so that we can publish details in the Hantsmoths web-site newsletter.

Tim Norriss, Moth Recorder
Mike Wall (01256 819631) mike@hantsmoths.org.uk

National Moth Nights 2008 and 2009 in Hants and Isle of Wight

The tenth National Moth Night took place on 7 June 2008. For only the second time a daytime recording element was incorporated into the event: recorders were encouraged to look for two day-flying target species and one nocturnal target species. Only one of these was at all likely in our area; in the event, owing to rather indifferent weather, the Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-moth *Hemaris tityus* was not seen.

A summary of NMN 2008 was published in the Autumn 2009 issue (No. 38) of *Atropos*: our two counties did very well. North Hampshire (VC12) recorded the highest total species (306) of any vice-county by a large margin, and South Hampshire (VC11) was third with 230 spp. We also did well with the number of sites trapped (85), being beaten only by Lancashire, where 111 sites were visited. The most moths of a single species anywhere in the country occurred in Janet and Ken Jones’s garden near Winchfield, where about 300 Green Oak Tortrix *Tortrix viridana* came to our four lights.

There were many significant records:-

Raspberry Moth <i>Lampronia corticella</i>	Micheldever Spoil Heaps	Third vc12 record. Nectaring by day	MJW
Raspberry Moth <i>Lampronia corticella</i>	Winnall Moors HWT	Fourth vc12 record	AHD
Forester <i>A. statices</i>	Odiham Common	By day	PGLT / GJD
Cistus Forester	Chilbolton	By day	GCE

<i>A. geryon</i>			
Red-belted Clearwing <i>S. myopaeformis</i>	Mortimer West End	Two larval exuviae	GJD
<i>Argyresthia cupressella</i>	Afton	New vc10 record	JEC/JS
<i>Cedestis gysselella</i>	Pamber	Adult to mv	DGG
<i>Platyedra subcinerea</i>	Southsea	Adult to mv	IRT
<i>Cochylis molliculana</i>	Basingstoke	Second vc12 record	GAH
<i>Epinotia trigonella</i>	Winchfield	Adult to mv	MJW/TJN
Poplar Lutestring	Fleet Pond	Adult to mv	GCS
Lead-coloured Pug	Pamber	Adult to mv	DGG
Sloe Pug	Totland		SAK-J
Chimney Sweeper	Chilbolton	By day	GCE
Dew Moth	Hurst Castle	By day	SI / MDu
Red-necked Footman	Micheldever	21 adults to mv	CWP
Wood Tiger	Old Burghclere	By day	GJD
Delicate	Afton		DBW
Oak Rustic	Isle of Wight	One larva by day	JEC/JS
Scarce Merveille du Jour	Wickham Common	Adult to mv	KC
Scarce Merveille du Jour	Lymington	Adult to mv	PRD
Rosy Marbled	Pamber	Adult to mv	DGG
Rosy Marbled	Great Linford	Adult to mv	DW
Silver Hook	Winnal Moors	Adult to mv	AHD
Beautiful Snout	Pamber	Adult to mv	DGG
Buttoned Snout	Winnal Moors	Adult to mv	AHD
Buttoned Snout	Totland	Adult to mv	SAK-J
Common Fan-foot	Pamber	Adults to mv	DGG / GJD

In 2009 National Moth Night fell on 18 and 19 September, the first time in the history of this event that the option of two nights had been used. The idea was to allow for the fact that in September the weather could be less than suitable for a one-night event.

Migration was the national theme of the event. Moths from a series of locations across the country were colour-marked during preceding days to attempt to track any movement, but I have heard of no marked moths being re-trapped in our region.

An amazing 2,477 records of 268 species have been received for our two counties. More details will be published in the next Newsletter, and it is hoped that in the coming weeks summaries of all previous NMNs will appear on the <http://www.hantsmoths.org.uk/index.htm> and Branch web-sites.

Thanks to all who took part and submitted records.

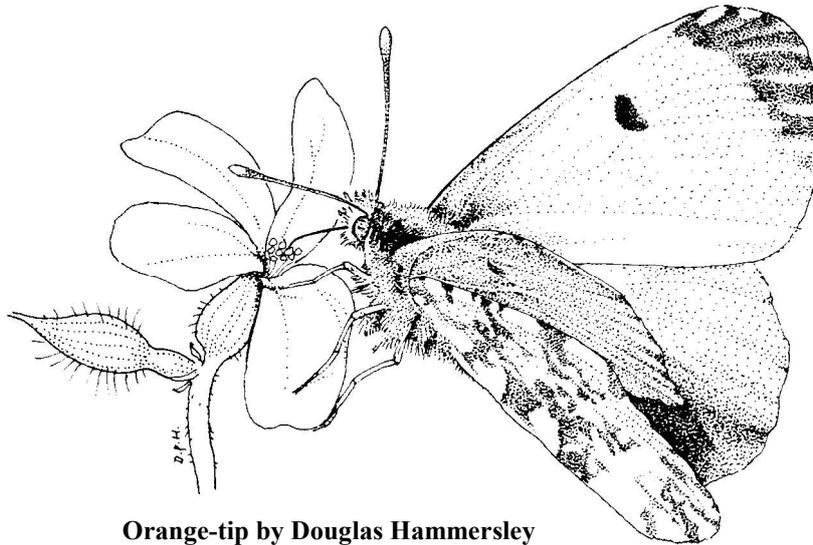
Tim Norriss, Moth Recorder

Orange-tips

For many years we have been attempting to help the local Orange-tip population by growing Jack-by-the Hedge or Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), Honesty, Lady's Smock or Milkmaids (*Cardamine pratensis*) and Dame's Violet (*Hesperis matronalis*).

Our Dame's Violet flowers too late so we have had no luck with it. The Lady's Smock tends to get eaten by pigeons, and although caterpillars have appeared on it they have not survived. The most caterpillars by far are found on Jack-by-the Hedge, but in some years there are a good number on Honesty which appear to be successful. Both the successful plant species are biennials and therefore difficult to keep going, but single plants dotted around are much more successful than large groups of them.

Tony Rackham



Orange-tip by Douglas Hammersley

Pony Paddocks

How to turn them into havens for butterflies

If you know anyone who grazes horses and is interested in also improving their paddocks for butterflies, please direct them to www.floralocale.org where there is a terrific **pdf** information sheet on encouraging wild flowers in paddocks.

I really can commend flowery paddocks for horses and ponies. My horse spent 25 of his almost 30 years in flowery fields; it certainly kept him healthy!

Lynn Fomison

Weather Effects on Butterflies

Weather conditions can have considerable effects on butterflies. Not surprisingly, sunshine is very important, as the warmth absorbed by their wings (which can be likened to solar panels) provides the power for them to fly. Why then, on a beautiful sunny day in spring or summer, do we sometimes see no butterflies on the wing? Often this is due to the wind: not just its strength but also the quarter from which it is coming.

If the wind is from a southerly or westerly direction, we may see a profusion of butterflies, particularly in late summer when numbers of the Nymphalidae family (Red Admirals, Peacocks, Painted Ladies, Commas and Small Tortoiseshells) are flying around or settling on buddleias or various other nectar plants. Butterflies do not like winds from the north or east, although some may venture forth in very sheltered locations.

During the summer months some butterflies start flying soon after breakfast-time, but others, such as the Silver-studded Blues, like to take their time before they start fluttering in the sunshine. I have found that the majority of this species prefer to fly just above the heather, on which the females lay their eggs, from about 10.00 or 10.30 onwards. If it is windy they may just sit on the heather fronds with their wings open, absorbing the sunshine.

The Silver-studded Blue, one of the smallest butterfly species (about 25mm wingspan) is listed as a “high priority” in Butterfly Conservation’s South-Central Regional Action Plan, which is designed to protect and enhance butterfly populations in Dorset, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Hampshire still has a large number of colonies; in view of the great loss of heathland nationally, correct management of all known sites is very important. Members of the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Branch of Butterfly Conservation are actively involved with landowners in this respect.

I have mentioned this particular butterfly as it has an unusual association with *Lasius niger* or *Lasius alienus* ants. Initially the caterpillars nibble young shoots of heather but when they get bigger ants carry them into their nests where they eventually pupate. (In return for this care the caterpillars exude a honey-like liquid which the ants love.) If weather conditions adversely affect the ants’ nests (e.g. flooding after torrential rain) then the caterpillars or pupae could be lost.

As well as sun, wind and rain, global warming is another factor that is affecting butterflies. With the warmer temperatures that we have experienced during the last decade or two some species are migrating further and further north. For most butterfly enthusiasts in Britain this is good news, as numbers are generally increasing.

Only a few years ago some butterflies, such as the Red Admiral, were killed off in late autumn by the cold weather. Now, with the (usually!) milder winters, some are hibernating and even emerging from their hideaways as early as January to flutter around in sunny, sheltered spots. In fact, there were several sightings of Red Admirals on News Year's day last year. (Other hibernating species such as Brimstone and Peacock were also seen.) With influxes from North Africa and the Continent at various times, these butterflies are now being recorded throughout the year.

Peter Martin

This article first appeared in the winter 2009/10 edition of "Weather Eye", which is published by Frosted Earth, 77 Rickman Hill, Coulsdon, Surrey. CR5 3DT Tel: 01737 554869 www/frostedearth.com



EARLY SIGHTINGS 2010

The first butterfly reported on the web-site was a Red Admiral seen by Martin King at Poulner on 15 January. This was followed two days later by a very early Brimstone at Alresford and another Red Admiral in Boscombe. The rest of January and most of February were wet and cold; apart from single Red Admirals at Lymington and Abbots Ann on 5 February butterflies were wisely keeping out of sight.

The first day of March brought excitement in the form of three widely separated sightings of Small Tortoiseshell, by Simon Wooley at Winchester College, Mark Swann at Testwood and Melanie Gibbons at Christchurch. On the same day there was a Peacock at Magdalen Hill. On 2 March there were again three separate sightings, this time of Brimstone, by Charles Cuthbert, Alan Green and Nick Walford, followed by a very surprising Painted Lady seen on 5 March by Paul Ritchie at Bolderwood. Mid-March - and spring seemed to have arrived: there were reports of Comma, Small White, Brimstone, Peacock and, most pleasingly, several more Small Tortoiseshells.

Myself, I have seen just one Brimstone (on 13 March) but am hoping that April will bring good times.

Jenny Mallett, Branch Organiser

Bryophytes of the Chalk Grasslands (2)

This is the follow-up to the article in the January 2009 Newsletter concerning an investigation into the bryophytes of chalk grasslands in Hampshire. Two of the sites I surveyed were the Butterfly Conservation reserves at Yew Hill and Magdalen Hill Down.

A total of 15 species was found during the Yew Hill survey and eight at Magdalen Hill Down. The difference is mainly because many bryophyte species prefer the moister conditions found on north-facing slopes such as Yew Hill (actually north-east facing). Magdalen Hill Down is south-facing and the more rapid desiccation found there means that opportunities for bryophytes are restricted. Despite this, Magdalen Hill Down still has an identifiable bryophyte layer in the grassland as well as in the areas of scrub and trees.

In addition to the species numbers, two other measurements were made during the survey: species frequency and species abundance. Frequency is a simple measure of the number of times a species occurs in randomly placed quadrats expressed as a percentage. Abundance is an objective measure of the percentage of cover each species makes at a site. In both cases Yew Hill had much higher values, both overall and for individual species, although the Common Feather Moss (*Kindbergia praelonga*), frequent at Magdalen Hill Down, was not found in the Yew Hill survey.

The most frequent species at the two reserves are shown in the table, with accompanying cover abundance values.

The aim of the study was to identify differences in the species composition and abundance between north- and south-facing chalk grassland sites and determine what effect the grazing regime may have on the bryophytes. The aim was not to discover rarities, nor was it to find the maximum number of species at a site.

The influence of site aspect was clearly demonstrated in my data but the effect of the different grazing regimes was not so obvious. An extended and more controlled study would be needed to identify any such patterns clearly. Sheep are the preferred grazing animals for bryophytes because they maintain a lower sward than cattle and they cause less damage by trampling. Cattle produce greater quantities of manure and urine and this in turn damages the vegetation and results in local patches of eutrophication where dominant plant species can thrive and out-compete the bryophytes. Cattle are used when there has been a long period of invasion by rank grasses, such as Tor Grass (*Brachypodium pinnatum*) because they will graze the tall, coarse grasses that sheep and rabbits

cannot. Grazing by cattle generally results in a longer, coarser sward which as a result has a less diverse flora.

<i>Species</i>	<i>YH Frequency %</i>	<i>MHD Frequency %</i>	<i>YH Cover %</i>	<i>MHD Cover %</i>
Neat Feather Moss <i>Pseudoscleropodium purum</i>	87	35	17	7
Pointed Spear Moss <i>Calliergon cuspidatum</i>	85	2	17	0
Yellow Feather Moss <i>Homalothecium lutescens</i>	62	0	10	0
Cypress Plait Moss <i>Hypnum cupressiforme</i>	48	15	10	1
Comb Moss <i>Ctenidium molluscum</i>	38	0	5	0
Common Feather Moss <i>Kindbergia praelonga</i>	0	67	0	8
Whitish Feather Moss <i>Brachythecium albicans</i>	20	0	2	0
Many Fruited Thyme Moss <i>Plagiomnium affine</i>	5	5	1	1

I expect to continue my interest in British bryophytes. A new user-friendly field guide recently published by the British Bryological Society, *Mosses and Liverworts of Britain and Ireland – a Field Guide* (available at <http://www.britishbryologicalsociety.org.uk/>), is recommended and will be a great help to me and to anybody with an interest in the subject.

My thanks again to Lynn Fomison for all the information she provided and to Phil Budd for his help in improving my identification skills.

Andrew Sanders <andrew.sanders@vernsoft.co.uk>



Cratageus

Sleeping Lepidoptera

Butterflies call to mind hot sunny weather, flower-filled meadows and gardens alive with these colourful insects. Similarly, lovers of moths will remember those balmy honey-scented evenings. Each species has its own flight season, some lasting only a few short weeks and others for perhaps a few months. But all species of Lepidoptera have to find a means of surviving the winter.

How do they achieve this? Well, some don't! Migrant species such as the Silver Y moth, Deaths-head Hawk-moth and Clouded Yellow butterfly find our weather too wet and cold, preferring a more Mediterranean climate. One exception is the Hummingbird Hawk-moth, which in recent mild years has managed to survive as an adult in unheated outhouses. Several native species of butterfly are also capable of overwintering as adults: in ivy foliage, under fallen leaves or in buildings; when resting with closed wings they are very well camouflaged. Typical hibernators are Brimstone, Comma, Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock - all capable of living for ten months.

Some moths also overwinter as adults. The Herald is a beautiful moth with cryptic colouring; several can be found together spending the winter in some cold outbuilding. The Grey Shoulder-knot hides behind loose bark, while the Dark Chestnut remains active in mild weather, mates and lays eggs in December and January. The Satellite does likewise, but only the females of the Red Green Carpet hibernate and emerge to lay eggs in spring. You would think that the Winter Moth would be active throughout winter, but it survives only until January, when the wingless female lays her eggs.

The second option for surviving winter is in the egg stage. Eggs laid singly or in small batches can be concealed in bark crevices or on terminal buds. The Merveille du Jour and Red Underwing moths and the Purple Hairstreak butterfly adopt this strategy. The Bulrush Wainscott cuts a slit in the stem of the food plant and lays her eggs inside the plant tissues. The wingless female Vapourer Moth lays her complete batch of eggs on the outside of the pupal cocoon, attached to the vegetation, walls or fences that she emerged from. The Lackey's egg batch is laid as a collar around a twig of the food plant and is covered with a layer of gum to protect it. The Gypsy Moth conceals her eggs by covering them with hairs from her abdomen. Species overwintering in this way may be dormant for as long as eight months.

The next overwintering strategy for many species is in the larval stage. As larvae are at greater risk of predation than eggs they have to be well concealed or camouflaged. Larvae overwinter at various stages of development. In August the Small Skipper larva eats its eggshell on emergence and spins a small dense cocoon at the base of the grass food plant; it emerges the following April to feed. Marsh Fritillary larvae feed communally inside a web until half-grown. In August they construct a more substantial web in which to hibernate

until early spring, when they emerge to sun themselves before beginning to feed. The Speckled Wood overwinters as a small larva concealed at the base of its grass food plant, but also as a pupa. This strategy is unique among British butterflies. Some species, such as the Chequered Skipper, overwinter as fully grown larvae; after hibernation they do not feed before pupation in April.

The Short-cloaked Moth larva hibernates in a bark crevice protected with a silken thread until April, when feeding recommences: this species is in the larval stage for about 10 months. The Ruby Tiger and Fox Moth spend the winter as fully grown larvae concealed in leaf litter; they emerge in spring, not to feed but only to sun themselves before pupation. The Northern Eggar passes two winters resting, the first as a small larva and the second as a pupa. Wood-boring species such as the Goat and Clearwing moths spend up to five years feeding as larvae inside the stems of their food plants. The larvae of the Fiery Clearwing also feed inside thick roots of herbaceous plants such as dock. Species such as the Turnip Moth, known to gardeners as “cut worms”, and members of the Swift family feed throughout the winter on the roots of grasses and herbaceous plants and can inflict serious damage on crops.

Probably the commonest overwintering form for moths and some butterflies is in the pupal stage. When fully fed the larvae seek a suitable place to pupate, out of reach of predators. The Orange-tip butterfly pupa is usually brown, occasionally green, and angular in shape. When attached to a dry stem by a girdle of silk it is very difficult to detect. The Green Hairstreak pupa is brown and slug-like and is held by silk to a dead leaf; it spends the winter among the general litter under its food plant. Cabbage White pupae can be found resting on fences, sheds or walls and often emerge quite early in spring when the site is south-facing.

Most moths seek low herbage or burrow under moss or beneath the soil surface. No doubt you have unearthed a few when turning over garden soil. Some moths pupate above ground, fixing their cocoons to tree bark or stems. The Puss Moth prepares to pupate by chewing fragments of bark which it mixes with silk; producing a rock-hard elongated dome-shaped case in which it overwinters. Both Alder and Miller moths chew into soft wood before pupating.

So there are several ways that butterflies and moths choose to spend the winter months. Not all survive: many larvae and pupae are dug up by birds such as starlings or crows or chiselled from their hiding places by woodpeckers. Carnivores such as beetles often prey on larvae, and if the winter is mild and damp many larvae succumb to diseases. Whatever the chosen survival strategy, the active stages can be very brief, especially in the case of adults.

John Petyt, Lincolnshire Branch

A fuller version of this article appeared in the Spring 2009 newsletter of the Lincolnshire Branch.

Product Review

Pentax *Papilio* 8.5 x 21 close-focus binoculars



A remarkable achievement by Pentax, the *Papilio* bins, as the model name implies, are primarily for the butterfly watcher. They are of truly pocket dimensions, measuring 12cm (5ins) long by 10cm (4ins) wide and weighing just 290g (<9oz), being of plastic construction throughout, save the Porro prisms and multi-coated lenses. The bins are also available with the lower magnification of 6.5.

The most extraordinary feature is the close focus, to a minimum of just 48cm (19ins). The image is bright and sharp, courtesy of the ingenious C.L.O.S.E. (Convergent Lens Optical System Engineering) design, delivering superb clarity at short range. At 15m (50ft) and beyond however, the focus becomes softer; with diminishing colour fidelity; this means the *Papilio* bins are unable to double very satisfactorily for bird watching beyond the back yard. Moreover, they are not waterproof.

The RRP is £183, but they are widely available on the Internet at around £100.

Andrew Brookes, andrew.brookes@port.ac.uk



Elm Trial News

Accessions

The Trial accessions were completed this winter with the arrival of the complex American hybrid cultivar 'Patriot', raised by the US National Arboretum. The cultivar has a mix of East and West in its ancestry, including Wych and Field Elm, allied with Siberian and Japanese Elm.

The Trial accessions are now as follows:

Hybrid cultivars

Ulmus 'Arno'

Ulmus 'Columella'

Ulmus 'Fiorente'

Ulmus 'Morton' **Accolade** ®

Ulmus 'Morton Glossy' **Triumph** ®

Ulmus 'Nanguen' **Lutèce** ®

Ulmus 'New Horizon'

Ulmus 'Patriot'

Ulmus 'Plinio'

Ulmus 'San Zanobi'

Ulmus 'Sapporo Autumn Gold'

Ulmus 'Wanoux' **Vada** ®

Species and species cultivars

Ulmus americana 'Lewis & Clark' **Prairie Expedition** ®

Ulmus americana 'Princeton'

Ulmus davidiana

Ulmus davidiana var. *japonica*

Ulmus davidiana var. *japonica* 'Prospector'

Ulmus glabra 'Šimonka'

Ulmus laciniata

Ulmus laevis

Ulmus macrocarpa

Ulmus americana 'Princeton'

The Princeton Elm, one of the most aesthetically pleasing elm cultivars ever produced, has been found wanting in recent trials conducted by Eisele GmbH in Germany. The tree's resistance to Dutch elm disease, hailed as 'high' in the USA, has been found to be only moderate in Europe, on a par with the earlier Dutch clones such as 'Dodeons' and 'Lobel' released in the early 1970s.

Accordingly, the tree has been dropped from the list of recommended species maintained on the Branch's web-site: a pity, as it remains one of the most readily available elms in the UK.

Ulmus 'New Horizon'

The American clone 'New Horizon' has been chosen by the London Borough of Enfield as a street tree, specifically for its potential in saving the local White-letter Hairstreak population. With more than 100 trees planted, this splendid initiative was reported by the London Evening Standard; see:

<http://www.thisislondon.co.uk/standard/article-23808776-rare-butterflies-given-a-new-leaf-of-life.do>

Dutch visit

The main trials plantation at Great Fontley is to receive a delegation of elm enthusiasts, mostly from Holland, but including several from France and Italy.

The delegation tours the National Elm Collection at Brighton on 14 May, continuing west the next day to see the elms on Southsea Common and at Great Fontley. Amongst the Dutch visitors, drawn mostly from the Amsterdam Parks Dept., will be Hans Heybroek, inventor of the Dutch clones ‘Columella’, ‘Lutèce’ and ‘Vada’.

West Walk, Wickham

Forty ‘Vada’ elms were planted by the Forestry Commission at West Walk in March. The elm planting remains of token significance however, somewhat eclipsed by the 300 small-leaved limes, and 25,000 oaks planted at the same site.

Andrew Brookes

BOOK REVIEWS

***New Trees – Recent Introductions to Cultivation*, by Grimshaw and Bayton**

Commissioned by the International Dendrology Society, *New Trees* is a lavish heavyweight sponsored by the likes of the Lord Heseltine, Heathcote Amory, and numerous charitable trusts. *New Trees* comprises almost 1,000 pages replete with colour photographs and line drawings and seeks to move on from where the eighth (and apparently final) edition of Bean’s *Trees and shrubs hardy to the British Isles* left off over 30 years ago. Since then, many changes not overtly significant to arboriculture have occurred, paramount among them the improvement in diplomatic relations between West and East, or more specifically China, the plantsman’s Mecca. It is difficult to exaggerate the floral importance of such a huge country never ravaged by glaciation, where just one mountain, the Emei Shan, hosts more than double the number of plant species native to the British Isles.

The generosity of Chinese and other arboreta to their Western counterparts has seen a substantial influx of new species, some of which are now beginning to appear in commerce. Within the same period, the development of new cultivars on both sides of the Atlantic has continued apace, nowhere more noticeably than in the realm of the elm, with the release of over a dozen clones highly resistant to Dutch elm disease.

The book appeared in May of this year and describes over 800 ‘trees’ (defined as single-stemmed plants over 5m in height, to include eucryphia, camellia, and one astonishing buddleja) introduced to European and North American cultivation. All are described in exhaustive detail; no mere desktop search this, the authors having globetrotted tirelessly to photograph and sample many of the trees. Impossible to fault, *New Trees* (ISBN 978-1-84246-173-0) is published by the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, price £99.

Andrew Brookes, andrew.brookes@port.ac.uk

Butterflies of Britain and Ireland

by Jeremy Thomas and Richard Lewington

Just in case you have overlooked the fliers in the last issue of *Butterfly*, this is a MUST HAVE book! It was originally published in 1991 and proved to be the best butterfly book ever, so much so that second-hand copies are amazingly expensive - look on Amazon! At £22.99 this book may prove to be a good investment as well as a joy to read.

Lynn Fomison



Drawing by David Thelwell

Gardening for Butterflies, Bees and other Beneficial Insects

A how-to guide, by Jan Miller-Klein

Jan is well known as someone who undertakes habitat creation in gardens and parks, very much at a practical level. I often feel disappointed with some of the "Gardening for Butterflies" books that I read, but I am expecting Jan's book to be very inspiring. It will include plans for borders, patio pots and even green roofs, together with information on individual species of butterflies, bees and ladybirds. It is a well timed book for the International Year of Biodiversity 2010. Advance copies can be ordered until 30 May at a saving of £2.00. If you are tempted to get one now rather than wait for my review, send a cheque for £19.45 payable to Butterfly Reserve to Saith Ffynnon Wildlife Plants, Whitford, Holywell. CH8 9EQ. Or order online at www.7wells.co.uk.

Lynn Fomison

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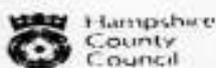
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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Many thanks to all contributors for their articles. The deadline for the September 2010 Newsletter is 31 August.

Juliet Bloss, Editor

The opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of Hampshire and IoW Branch.



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