

# Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch



Newsletter 100



Butterfly  
Conservation

April 2016



## Butterfly Reserves Walks

### Wednesday Wanders on Magdalen Hill Down

Meet 10.30am at SU512295

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

**13 April** Leaders: Jenny Mallet and Jayne Chapman – Tel. 01962 808400  
Our first walk of the year to see early butterflies and cowslips.

**4 May** Leaders: Jenny Mallet and Brian Fletcher – Tel. 01962 882746  
Come along to enjoy butterflies of the month, and the spectacular display of cowslips. A leisurely walk with friendly company. All welcome, including dogs on short leads.

**1 June** Leader: Jayne Chapman – Tel. 01962 808400

**6 July** Leaders: Jenny Mallet and Brian Fletcher – Tel. 01962 882746

**3 August** Leaders: Jenny Mallet and Brian Fletcher – Tel. 01962 882746

**7 September** Leaders: Jenny Mallet and Brian Fletcher – Tel. 01962 882746

### Big Butterfly Count on Magdalen Hill Down Meet 10.30am at SU512295

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

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

**17 July** Leader: Jayne Chapman – Tel. 01962 808400

### Walks at Bentley Station Meadow Meet at SU802433

**31 May** Meet at 10.30am Leader: David Walton – Tel. 07759 684513  
Meet in the Forestry Commission car park off Gravel Hill Road. Leave the A31 east of Bentley, signposted Alice Holt Research Station. Go along Gravel Hill Road, over a railway bridge. The car park is about 500 yards after the bridge on the right.

**17 June** Meet at 7.00pm Leader: Arthur Greenwood – Tel. 01962 808400  
Meet in the north-east corner of Bentley Station car park. An evening walk to enjoy the orchids and other wildflowers in the meadow.

**12 July** Meet at 10.30am Leader: David Walton – Tel. 07759 684513  
Meet in the Forestry Commission car park off Gravel Hill Road (directions as above). A good chance to see a Purple Emperor.

### Walks at Yew Hill Meet at SU451269

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

**5 June** Meet at 10.30am Leader: Peter Hutchins – Tel. 07895 388378

**23 July** Meet at 2.00pm Leader: Brian Fletcher – Tel. 01962 882746  
A good time of year to see Chalkhill Blues and many other butterflies and lovely wildflowers.



## Chairman's Message

A warm welcome to the spring 2016 edition of the branch newsletter. As ever at this time, with winter gradually giving way to spring, thoughts turn to a year in the field ahead, whatever it may bring. However, we have in many respects only just left autumn behind, after a remarkable run of mild weather - albeit stormy and wet at times - that has seen almost unprecedented numbers of migrant lepidoptera landing on our shores. For moths in particular it has been remarkable, with a multitude of rare species, some new to the British list. (For more on this news see the 'Moths Count' section on the Butterfly Conservation website: [www.mothscount.org/uploads/E-moth%20January%202016\(1\).pdf](http://www.mothscount.org/uploads/E-moth%20January%202016(1).pdf))

Since the last edition of this journal, the branch held its AGM and Members' Day at Littleton last October. The excellent attendance fully justified our experiment in moving it to a Sunday, and this will be repeated in 2016: this year's event is already booked and planning started, with Sunday 16th October being the date for your diaries.

This year's event will sadly mark the end of my tenure as chair as pressures of work mean that I cannot devote the time required to the role: but three years is long enough and we have seen a lot of positive changes in that time, change that will continue as we work with Butterfly Conservation Head Office to deliver the objectives of the society from the practical conservation on our flagship reserves through to the public outreach achieved by the Information subcommittee team.

I'd like in particular to highlight the incredible achievement of Clive Wood and Andy Barker, with the support of the staff and council of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, in gaining Natural England approval for the license to reintroduce the Marsh Fritillary to Foxlease Meadows near Fleet. Approval was granted within four days of submission of the 60-page application, which must be a record. This is both an endorsement of the quality of the research that went into the bid, and an example of the power of the branch network within BC if efforts are targeted correctly.

***Mike Wall, Branch Chair***



## Branch News

### Remembering George Yorke

We received the sad news in February that George Yorke had passed away. New members might not have heard of George and the incredible voluntary work he did in the Branch. It really is a case of words being inadequate to describe his achievements. He served on the Branch Main Committee in various capacities, latterly as Chairman from 1991 to 1995, and then as President and Reserves Officer from 1995 to 2001.



*George at Magdalen Hill Down in June 1996 celebrating the receipt of a £70,000 Lottery Fund grant. Richard Bloomfield*

The best testament is to walk around any of the three fine Branch reserves and to appreciate that George was the leading light in their acquisition. He was unstinting in his efforts with the publicity, negotiations and fundraising necessary to achieve the Branch's dream of having its own special places for butterflies. Of particular significance was the acquisition of a huge Heritage Lottery Grant to help to fund the Extension at Magdalen Hill Down, in combination with a public appeal for funds launched by Dame Miriam Rothschild. Much of his correspondence was conducted in his very neat handwriting, and letters and press releases were beautifully worded to achieve the desired effect, whether it was a request for money or for help of one sort or another.

George was very much a regular at field meetings, at which he probably gained as much pleasure from meeting members as seeing the butterflies. He had a great talent for spotting people's skills and an even greater talent for then recruiting them to undertake tasks within the Branch. His enthusiasm for making the Branch a success and a brilliant place for butterflies was really contagious; quite a few people still active on the various committees were originally recruited by George.

It was a great privilege to have known George and to have worked with him, and I will continue to hold many happy memories.

**Lynn Fomison**

## 2016 EVENTS AND SHOWS PROGRAMME

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

- 15 May** **Alresford Watercress Festival**  
9:00am to 4:30pm; organiser – TBA
- 5 June** **Fleet Pond Wildlife Day**  
11:00am to 3:00pm; organiser – Richard Lemon
- 17 July** **Members' Day at Magdalen Hill Down**  
(if wet, 24 July) 10:00am to 4:00pm; organiser – Clive Wood
- 31 July** **Millfield BioBlitz, Old Basing, Basingstoke**  
Organiser – TBA
- August (TBA)** **Family Fun Day and Big Butterfly Count at Magdalen Hill Down**  
Organiser – Abby Sullivan
- 5 August** **Hilliers**  
Organiser – Linda Barker
- (TBA)** **Test Valley Wood Fair**  
Organisers – Linda and Andy Barker
- 3 September** **Alresford Show**  
9:00am to 4:00pm; organiser – Clive Wood
- 10 September** **Romsey Show**  
9:00am to 5:00pm; organiser – Clive Wood
- (TBA)** **Lymington Reserves Open Day**  
Organiser – TBA
- 9 October** **Blackmoor Apple Day**  
9:30am to 4:00pm; organiser – Clive Wood
- 16 October** **Branch AGM at Littleton Village Hall**  
12:00 to 4:00pm; organisers – Mike Wall and Clive Wood

*Clive Wood, Vice-Chair*

### Upper Thames Branch AGM

The Upper Thames BC Members' Day and AGM will be held on Saturday 29 October 2016 at Benson Parish Hall, Oxon, OX10 6LZ. Doors will open at 09:45 and the event will run from 10:30am to 5:00pm. Members from Hants and IOW Branch will be welcome to attend.

*Richard Soulsby*

## MEMBERS' DAY 17 JULY, MAGDALEN HILL DOWN

We would like to invite all members and their families to a Members' Day to be held on Sunday 17 July at our Magdalen Hill Down reserve near Winchester. If you have never visited Magdalen Hill Down before, here is a great opportunity to see one of the best butterfly reserves in the country.

This will be a "drop-in" event between 10am and 4pm. Come when you like and stay as long as you like. We will be offering guided walks, refreshments, presentations, badge-making for the youngsters, and, hopefully, master classes on plant identification and outdoor photography.

We are particularly keen to hear from members who would like to help out on the day by sharing their knowledge of butterflies, plants and photography. Please contact Clive Wood if you are able to assist. Further details will be posted on the branch website.

*Clive Wood, Vice-Chair*

## KEEPING IN TOUCH: E-MAIL PREFERENCES

Just a brief reminder that we have introduced a short and occasional e-mail newsletter to help members keep in touch with news and events in the Branch. The idea is to bridge the gap between our twice-yearly Newsletters published in April and October. Some members are not receiving the e-newsletter because their e-mail preference settings are too restrictive. If this applies to you, please go to the Members Area of the Branch website and change your e-mail settings to "more frequently if appropriate". Anyone whose setting is "no e-mails" or "max one e-mail per month" will not receive the electronic newsletter.

*Clive Wood, Vice-Chair*

## BROWN HAIRSTREAK SURVEYS: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Butterfly Conservation has introduced a new methodology to survey the abundance and distribution of the elusive Brown Hairstreak. The commitment is to complete between one and three egg transects in randomly selected squares over one day between November and mid-December each year.

We are looking for volunteers to help set up egg transects in the following 1km grid squares:

- SU2342 and SU2442: Cholderton, near Bulford Camp.
- SU4853: Near Whitchurch



If you think you might be able to help, please get in touch with Clive Wood. Thanks.

*Clive Wood, Brown Hairstreak species champion*



## Isle of Wight News

### HELP WANTED AT BRIDDLESFORD WOODS, WOOTTON

Calling butterfly surveyors! Would you like to help the People's Trust for Endangered Species by surveying butterflies on their beautiful reserve at Briddlesford Woods on the Isle of Wight?

It does require weekly visits from April through to the end of September. Please contact Laura Bower, Conservation Officer, at [laura.bower@ptes.org](mailto:laura.bower@ptes.org) for more information.

### LAST-FRIDAY MOTH NIGHTS WITH ARC AT YAVERLAND

The team at Arc invites everyone to join them at dusk by the sea for live moth nights starting on Friday 29 April.

For times and details on this and the amazing Moon, Music, Moths and Other Flying Insects Spectacular run by Brown's Café and Eccleston George, contact Ian Boyd or Claire Hector on 07710 363446 or visit [www.arc-consulting.co.uk](http://www.arc-consulting.co.uk)



*Moths from one of Arc's moth nights in July 2015*

### WHITE-LETTER HAIRSTREAKS ON DISEASE-RESISTANT ELMS IN NEWPORT

You will read elsewhere in this newsletter the very exciting news that White-letter Hairstreaks were found on LUTECE disease-resistant elms in the middle of Newport in 2015. The first sightings were in late June and on 10 July seven individuals were seen on two elms at Towngate.

The Island's elms have been devastated by Dutch elm disease since the 1970s and the White-letter Hairstreak has declined greatly as a result. Now, there is hope that numbers may pick up if the butterfly can breed successfully on some of the disease-resistant elms planted on the Island. The Hampshire & Isle of Wight Branch initiated trials of disease-resistant elm cultivars in 2000 to evaluate their potential as host plants for the White-letter Hairstreak. Andrew Brookes has been leading these trials and supplying conservation groups on the Island with young trees. These have been planted all over the Island. LUTECE was the first cultivar to be planted, from 2003, and it is possible that the butterfly will also be found on some of the other cultivars as they mature.

It would be great to hear of more sightings of White-letter Hairstreaks on the Island in 2016 so please do keep a look out!

***Caroline Dudley***



## Reserves News

The weather outside my window today tells me that spring is most definitely on the way, a welcome sign indeed from the wet winter that befell us all. Once again, only time will tell just how this might impact on the butterflies. Last year we had some winners and losers, and this year I am personally hoping for a better year for the Chalkhill Blue, which didn't fare so well across Hampshire in 2015. There are contributing factors as to why this should be, but the weather is right up there as a prime culprit.

### MAGDALEN HILL DOWN

We are pinning our hopes on 2016 being the year for the Dingy Skipper at MHD. This little butterfly has declined in recent years and is a Biodiversity Action Plan species. Keep an eye out for it basking on bare ground or perching on dead flower heads. More moth-like than butterfly, it can easily be confused with Grizzled Skipper, the Mother Shipton moth, and the Burnet Companion moth.

This spring we will finally complete the repair works to the disabled access path. This runs the entire length of the reserve and, at 1,355 metres or 0.8 of a mile, it required some considerable work to scrape the vegetation back a metre either side of the path to reclaim it from the encroaching grassland.



*Path repairs at MHD. Jayne Chapman*

I was very lucky (yet again) to have two superb Sparsholt students with me for three weeks on their work placement in January. During their time they completed a whole range of tasks, and generally shadowed me in the day-to-day running of the reserves from liaising with the public to TB testing the cattle. I like to give them a project to think about and focus on, so Jodie and Erin were given the task of updating the noticeboards with clear, easy to read information for the public. This covers everything from chalk grassland and how we manage it, to the health dangers associated with dog fouling, and the law regarding dogs off-lead. It is a constant part of my job trying to keep the dog walkers happy given that our management always includes grazing with livestock, and ground nesting birds such as Skylarks.



Most people are aware or have heard of TOXOCARIASIS – a potentially serious infection which can be transmitted from old dog faeces to humans, causing eye problems and other symptoms such as dizziness and headaches. Land becomes contaminated by dog faeces carrying eggs of this parasite. However, not so well known but equally as important are NEOSPOROSIS – a disease passed on to cattle through eggs deposited in dog faeces, which can cause abortion or still birth in cattle, and can be passed on from mother to calf – and SARCOCYSTOSI – a disease that can cause neurological disease and death in sheep. The parasite is passed on to sheep using dogs as an intermediate host and excreted in their faeces.



Jodie and Erin at MHD. Jayne Chapman

*‘During our time at Butterfly Conservation on work placement, we have shadowed the Reserves Officer, Jayne Chapman, for 3 weeks to study, observe and aid in the day-to-day running of the various reserves under her management. We have helped with work parties, been given guidance of her role as a Reserves Officer, understood the need to liaise with the public visiting the Reserves and how best to monitor the reserve landscape to increase populations for declining species of butterflies and moths. As students, we have appreciated every second of time that Jayne has given to us in order to provide us with the unforgettable and rewarding experience of being part of Butterfly Conservation. We have met so many people who are part of this amazing charity as well as other organisations which run alongside in strong partnership, all working together for the great cause of conserving wildlife. We would like to thank Jayne Chapman and ‘Butterfly Conservation’ for this opportunity.’*

**Jodie and Erin, January 2016**

## BENTLEY STATION MEADOW

After many years in the pipeline, Bentley Station Meadow finally has a new sign – two in fact – one at each end of the reserve. These were erected by the ‘team’, seen here smiling after a job well done!

Visit the reserve in the summer to see Dark Green Fritillary (2015 was the first year since records began in 1993 that this butterfly has been recorded on transect). Silver-washed Fritillary is also on the increase, and it isn’t difficult to count 100+ flying on a sunny day.



*New sign at BSM.  
Tree popping at Yew Hill.  
Jayne Chapman*



## YEW HILL

The Hampshire Conservation Volunteers once again carried out the majority of tasks over the winter at Yew Hill, which included clearing the fence lines from encroaching scrub and bramble, and keeping the bridleway and paths clear of over-hanging branches. Ben Wood, one of our regular volunteers, had a go with the ‘tree popper’, which is a marvellous gadget (made in Australia under licence, and not particularly cheap at £200!). It comes in three sizes with the largest tackling anything up to Ash and Birch of 60mm diameter. Historically, scrubby regrowth has been dealt with using a brush-cutter, which means that it inevitably grows back the following year on old rootstock (unless of course it is treated with chemicals, which is best avoided for obvious reasons). The tree popper is easy to use and very effective, pulling out the entire root of the plant in one hit.

The smaller size is ideal for ‘popping’ out ragwort which I am looking forward to trialling with a few volunteers this coming July. See you there!

*Jayne Chapman, Reserves Officer*

## NEW MEMBERS

97 new members have joined the Branch since August 2015. A very warm welcome to you all. Do come and join us at some of the Branch events, shows, reserve walks and field trips over the course of spring and summer.

Ms Llyn Adams, Stockbridge  
Mr Paul Adkins, Liphook  
Mrs B Arthure, Bembridge  
Ms S Ashford-Russell, Alresford  
Mr P & Mrs R Bagshaw & Family, Waterlooville  
Mrs S & Mr K Baker, Alton  
Mr R Bance & Mr B Ogilvie, Orpington  
Mr A Barter & Mr R Ingrams, Aldershot  
Mrs M & Mr J Baughan & Family, Alresford  
Ms AC Belson, Beaulieu  
Ms D Betambeau & Mr M King, Southampton  
Mrs J & Mr A Borthwick, Petersfield  
Mr T & Mrs D Boyce, Lymington  
Mr S Bradley, Southampton  
Ms M Burgess, Kingsley  
Mrs A Church, Winchester  
Mr D Coggins, Petersfield  
Mrs Sarah Coles, Lee-on-the-Solent  
Mr J & Mrs D Comber, Ventnor  
Mr M Compton & Miss L Mortimer, Andover  
Mrs C & Mr C Coneybeer, Milford on Sea  
Mr C Cooper, Ventnor  
Mr J Cutting, Portsmouth  
Miss V Dale, Gosport  
Miss Lyn Davies, Emsworth  
Miss S Deane & Mr W Mills, Southampton  
Miss Olivia Disley, Hook  
Mr S Dudley, Southampton  
Mrs D Dunnett, Winchester  
Dr M Elliott, Tadley  
Mrs V Estcourt, Stockbridge  
Ms D Evans, Newport  
Mrs S Gardner, Bordon  
Dr U Gorke & Mr E Schwarzat, Southampton  
Miss K Green, Ringwood  
Mr T & Mrs E Hale, Southampton  
Mrs T & Mr K Hall, Gosport  
Ms C Harris, Lymington  
Ms Maria Hayter, Lymington  
Mrs C Hewins, Ventnor  
Mrs K Hewlett, Andover  
Mrs J & Mr T Hill & Family, Romsey  
Mrs A & Mr P Hollands, Liphook  
Mrs A Hoysted, Hook  
Mr S & Mrs V James, Alton  
Ms F Jennings, Lymington  
Mrs S Jobson, Eastleigh  
Mr G Johnstone, Winchester  
Mr K Jones, Stockbridge  
Mr J L Jones, Yarmouth  
Miss I Jordan, Southsea  
Miss E Jump, Eastleigh  
Mrs Adele Kane, Southampton  
Miss K Lawrence & A Noon, Portsmouth  
Mrs K Lewis, Andover  
Dr N & Dr A Leyland & Family, Southampton  
Mrs J Long, Winchester  
Mr D Malaperimn, Andover  
Mrs E & Mr N Matthews & Family, Bordon  
Ms G Michaels, Romsey  
Miss Hannah Millgate, Newport  
Ms C Nash, Southampton  
Ms T Newton, Hook  
Mr D Norris, Cowes  
Mr S R Oldham, Alton  
Mrs Nicki Oliver, Southampton  
Dr R M Palmer, Havant  
Miss C Palmer, Southsea  
Mrs V Parker, Bentworth  
Mr R Parry & Miss A Myring, Lymington  
Miss D Parsons, Gosport  
Dr M & Mrs J Patterson, Newport  
Mr F & Mrs M Plowman, Gosport  
Mrs K Porteous, Eastleigh  
Ms M Rebello & Mr O Tindall & Family, Southampton  
Miss Jess Rook, Lymington  
Mr T Sharpe, Sandown  
Mr RM & Mrs S Shawcross, Winchester  
Mrs Sinden, Southampton  
Mrs T J L Smith, Winchester  
Mrs D Sneezum, Southampton  
Mrs J & Mr M Squibb, Sandown  
Mr N Studdert-Kennedy, Southampton  
Mr J Such, Southsea  
Mrs J Swatton, Fareham  
Mrs J Turner, Newport  
Mr S Turner & Miss S Line, Andover  
Mrs L & Mr A Uren & Family, Petersfield  
Dr N Waite, Southampton  
Mrs C Walley & Family, Alton  
Mr Dave Ward, Southampton  
Mrs S Webb, Portsmouth  
Miss N Wellesley-Davies & Mr G Hunter, Winchester  
Mrs S Williams, Havant  
Mrs C A & Mr M Willingham, Waterlooville  
Mr M Woods, Lee-on-the-Solent  
Mrs B Wrenn, Hayling Island

*Sharron Broadway, Membership Secretary*



# Butterfly Recording 2016

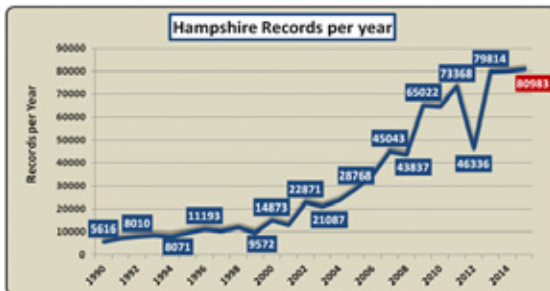
## Butterfly Records and Recording

To date, (mid-February) we only have a few early sightings recorded for 2016:

- 1st January, Red Admirals at Blackfield & Cadnam Garden Centre
- 11th January, Peacock at Titchfield Haven
- 20th January, Brimstone in Aldershot.
- 4th February, Small Tortoiseshell in Bishops Waltham

Having written the 'Introduction' and an article on 'Recording & Reporting' for the 2015 Annual Butterfly Report, it has been quite a challenge to find words to include in this Newsletter when both publications are being circulated around the same time! So a quick look at our County Butterfly Database revealed some statistics which might be of interest.

At the end of 2015, our dataset amounted to 918,720 records of which, of course, many comprised more than a single individual butterfly. The final total for 2015 cannot be determined yet as we are still awaiting some records from Butterfly Conservation Head Office and once verified by us, these will be imported into the database to boost the already impressive total of nearly 81,000 records for 2015.



*The graph shows how much reporting has increased during recent years, no doubt due to the online recording systems now available to everyone.*

The Records Sub-Committee has now been re-established comprising Andy Barker, Kelvin Richards, Mike Wall and myself, and one of our tasks this year will be to review the Branch Butterfly Database and correct some of the anomalies which are becoming apparent as we interrogate the dataset for information.

Looking at the above figures, it is highly probable that the millionth butterfly record will be added to the database during 2016 – who will have the honour of being the recorder with this millionth record?

Have a great butterfly year!

**Bob Annell**

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Butterfly Recorder  
(on behalf of Branch Records Sub-Committee)

Email: [grahants23@gmail.com](mailto:grahants23@gmail.com)

23 Ashleigh Close, Hythe, Southampton, SO45 3QN

Tel: 023 8084 0316



# Butterfly Surveys and Transects

## Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey (WCBS)

WCBS is a UK-wide survey of butterflies using randomly selected 1Km squares to assess the changing status of butterflies, giving an indication of the health of the countryside. The scheme has been running for seven years.

We have 30 squares in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Last year I was looking for new volunteers to take on six different squares; five out of these six have new 'owners'. This year, due to some of the current volunteers moving on, there are four squares which are vacant plus the 'unclaimed' square at Apes Down. Apes Down is an interesting site so there should be a range of butterflies to monitor in this square. Nobody has volunteered for this square before so it would be good to get it going this year.

I'm looking for help to cover the following 1km squares:

- SU4837 West Stoke Farm, South Wonston
- SU5839 Brown Candover
- SU6633 Kitwood, near Four Marks
- SU6231 Ropley Dean
- SZ4587 Apes Down, Isle of Wight

The survey involves counting butterflies along two 1km routes through the square, visiting at least twice during the year, once in July and again in August and, if possible, May as well.

To find out more about these squares, please contact me using the email address below.

## Butterfly Transects

The number of transects in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight has increased from 120 in 2014 to 130 for 2015. We are looking for help with the following transects for 2016:

- Magdalen Hill Down, there are now five transects at this site and Jenny Mallett, who organises the rota for these transects, is looking for additional recorders.
- Cove Brook near Farnborough.
- A new site near Winchester where we hope to start a transect this year.

Again, if you can spare some time to walk these transects do please get in touch.

**Linda Barker**

Email: [lindabarker4@btinternet.com](mailto:lindabarker4@btinternet.com)



# 2016 Field Trips Programme Hampshire

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

**Sunday 1 May, meet at 10:30am**

**Catherington Down (SU690143), site: Hampshire County Council**

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

*Directions: meet in Lovedean Lane. Leave the A3(M) at Junction 2, taking the B2149 towards Horndean, pass Morrison's and keep ahead into Catherington Lane. Turn left at Roads Hill and then right into Lovedean Lane; park in Lovedean Lane. A chance to see a lesser known site in the Meon Valley with good flora and fauna.*

*Aiming to see: Brimstone, Orange-tip and other early butterflies and moths*

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

**Little Butser Hill (SU711200)**

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

*Directions: Butser Hill is well signposted from the A3(M) at Clanfield. Meet at Butser Hill car park (Pay & Display). A chance to visit another area of Butser with a substantial Duke of Burgundy colony, to see Skylarks and Buzzards, and take in spectacular views towards Ashford Hill and the Meon Valley. Very steep in places. Bring Lunch as we will be visiting another part of Butser in the afternoon.*

*Aiming to see: Duke of Burgundy, Dingy and Grizzled Skipper, Small Heath, early moths*

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

**Stockbridge Down (SU375346), site: National Trust**

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

*Directions: Stockbridge Down is 1 mile east of Stockbridge and 6 miles west of Winchester on the B3049. Meet at the main NT car park on the south side of the road. Bring lunch.*

*Aiming to see: Duke of Burgundy, Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Grizzled Skipper, Brown Argus*

**Sunday 15 May, meet at 10:30am**

**Standing Hat to Perrywood Ivy Inclosure – New Forest (SU314035), site: Forestry Commission**

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

*Directions: meet at the Forestry Commission Standing Hat car park, just north of Brockenhurst off the B3055 at Balmerlawn by Balmer Lawn Hotel, taking the long track to the car-park. A different area to observe the Pearl-bordered Fritillary, and one of the largest colonies of this species in the New Forest. Bring lunch.*

*Aiming to see: Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Cuckoo and woodland flora and fauna*



**Saturday 21 May, Meet at 10:30am**

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

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

*Directions: meet at Martin Down NNR car park, off the A354, 11 miles south-west of Salisbury. The reserve is a large tract of open chalk grassland with many species of wildflowers, butterflies and moths. Bring lunch. We may well look for the Duke of Burgundy near to the other car park in the afternoon.*

*Aiming to see: Duke of Burgundy, Adonis Blue, Small Blue, Brown Argus and other rare invertebrates*

**Sunday 29 May, meet at 10:30am**

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

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

*Directions: meet at Bentley Wood car park, just across the Wiltshire border, reached along a track signed off Scouts Lane, which runs between West Dean and Middle Winterslow to the east of Salisbury. Good invertebrates and birdlife. Bring lunch.*

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

**Wednesday 1 June, meet at 10:30am**

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

*Leader: Mervyn Grist, Tel: 01264 358737*

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

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

**Saturday 4 June, meet at 10:30am**

**Coulter's Dean (SU734197), site: HIOWWT**

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

*Directions: meet at Head Down car park. From the A3 follow signs to Buriton along Greenway Lane; at the Village Inn crossroads turn right along Kiln Lane, pass under the railway bridge and the car park is a little farther along where the South Downs Way crosses the lane. A small reserve within the confines of Queen Elizabeth Country Park, reached by a short walk from Head Down. Possibility of a Duke of Burgundy!*

*Aiming to see: Green Hairstreak, Dingy and Grizzled Skipper*

**Saturday 11 June, meet at 10:30am**

**Portsmouth Hill (SU647065), site: Portsmouth City Council**

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

*Directions: meet at the James Callaghan Roundabout car park off the B2177, where Portsmouth Hill Road, Southwick Hill Road and James Callaghan Drive converge, just north-west of Queen Alexandra Hospital.*

*Aiming to see: Small Blue, Common Blue, Holly Blue, and spectacular views over the Solent*

**Saturday 25 June, meet at 10:30am**

**Bramshott Common (SU855337)**

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

*Directions: meet in the car park at the end of Rectory Lane. This can be reached directly off the A3 northbound, taking the lane-turning after the Liphook interchange (this is just before you get to the top of the hill, do not miss it! – there is no access to Rectory Lane from the southbound A3) or leave A3 at Liphook interchange and turn immediately right into Church Lane which leads on to Rectory Lane.*

*Aiming to see: Early Silver-studded Blue and other heathland invertebrates*

**Sunday 26 June, meet at 10:30am – Duke of Burgundy Larvae Hunt**

**Butser Hill (SU711200), site: Natural England**

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

*Directions: Butser Hill is well signposted from the A3(M) at Clanfield. Meet at Butser Hill car park (Pay & Display). Very steep in places. Bring lunch.*

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

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

**Abbotstone Down (SU584360)**

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

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

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

**Sunday 10 July, meet at 10:30am – The Purple Emperor Experience!**

**Havant Thicket and Southleigh Forest (SU723101), site: Forestry Commission**

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

*Directions: meet at Havant Thicket car park, signed as the 'Forest of Bere', off the B2149 on the western outskirts of Rowlands Castle. Following the success of the field trip in 2015, hope is high that this year could be even better! We will visit Southleigh Forest in the afternoon to look at a Purple Emperor assembly point.*

*Aiming to see: Purple Emperor, White Admiral, Silver-washed Fritillary, and other good flora and fauna*

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

**Butter Wood (SU718513)**

*Leader: David Walton, Mobile: 07759 684513*

*Directions: meet in the Fox and Goose car park, The Street, Greywell, RG29 1BY, parking there or if not intending to imbibe, with consideration on adjacent roads.*

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

**Sunday 17 July, meet at 10:30am**

**Farley Mount Country Park (SU420291), site: Hampshire County Council and Forestry Commission**

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

*Directions: meet in Spindle Tree car park, signposted off Sarum Road (the Roman road heading due west from Winchester), and one of several car parks at the site. This is a full day so bring lunch; in the morning we will circumnavigate West Wood and look in on Crab Wood, and then in the afternoon walk on Pitt Down.*

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

**Wednesday 20 July, meet 10:30am**

**Odiham Common (SU747517), site: Hart District Council**

*Leader: David Walton, Mobile: 07759 684513*

*Directions: meet in the car park at Colt Hill Wharf, Odiham, on the Basingstoke Canal. Approach from the bottom of Odiham High Street, turn down Colt Hill, go past the Waterwitch pub (RG29 1AL), over the canal bridge and follow the road round into the car park. A walk across the common and adjoining meadow and woodland footpaths, returning along the canal towpath.*

*Aiming to see: Silver-washed Fritillary, White Admiral, possible White-letter Hair-streak, Small and Large Skipper*

**Thursday 21 July, meet at 10:30am – Bring the Children Day**

**Abbotts Wood Inclosure (SU815407), site: Forestry Commission**

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

*Directions: meet at the Abbots Wood Inclosure car park off Dockenfield Street, just south-east of the Halfway House pub. Bring lunch.*

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

**Sunday 24 July, meet at 10:30am**

**Head Down and Holt Down – Queen Elizabeth Country Park (SU734197), site: Hampshire County Council**

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

*Directions: meet at Head Down car park. From the A3 follow signs to Buriton along Greenway Lane; at the Village Inn crossroads turn right along Kiln Lane, pass under the railway bridge and the car park is a little farther along where the South Downs Way crosses the lane. Fabulous Beech woodland, part of the Queen Elizabeth Country Park complex, with a mix of other trees and good ride-side flora. Bring lunch as we will visit Holt Down in the morning and nearby Head Down in the afternoon.*

*Aiming to see: Silver-washed Fritillary, Marbled White, Dark-Green Fritillary, possible Purple Emperor*

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

**Shipton Bellinger (SU229456)**

*Leader: Mike Gibbons, Tel: 01202 470849*

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

*Aiming to see: Brown Hairstreak*

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

**Idsworth Down (SU739156)**

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

*Directions: meet in the lane just over the railway bridge east of Charlton village and Charlton Down. From the A3 take the Butser Ancient Farm exit and at Charlton turn left at the Red Lion and over steep hill to cross the railway. The lane (old school track) is immediately left with limited parking on the left-hand side.*

*Aiming to see: Typical chalk downland with Chalkhill Blue, Common Blue, possible Silver-spotted Skipper*

**Sunday 21 August, meet at 10:30am**

**St Catherine's Hill Down (SU483280), site: HIOWWT**

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

*Directions: meet at St Catherine's Hill car park, south of Winchester and just to the west of M3 Junction 10, on the south side of Bull Drove. Very steep in places with spectacular views of Winchester from the hill fort and maze. Bring lunch.*

*Aiming to see: Adonis Blue and Silver-spotted Skipper*

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

**Beacon Hill NNR (SU598227), site: Natural England**

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

*Directions: meet at the reserve's hill-top car park, located off the narrow lane to the north-west of Exton, off the A32, in the Meon Valley.*

*Aiming to see: Silver-spotted Skipper, Brown Argus, Clouded Yellow and spectacular Meon Valley view*

**Saturday 3 September, meet at 10:30am**

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

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

*Directions: meet in the reserve's car park. The reserve is signposted off the A32 at Warnford. Very steep hillsides in places.*

*Aiming to see: Silver-spotted Skipper, Adonis Blue, Clouded Yellow and other good flora and fauna*

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

**Ashley Whitlock, Field Meetings Organiser**



## 2016 Field Trips Programme Isle of Wight

For mothing evenings, bring a torch and warm clothing and a flask of something hot to drink; insect repellent is advisable in the summer. Please contact the named leader for each event for more information.

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

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

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

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

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

**Saturday 14 May**, meet at 1:00pm

**Mount Joy, Newport (SZ485877)**

*Leader: Stuart Read, Tel: 07877 333734, Email: s.jread@btinternet.com*

*Directions: meet in front of Carisbrooke Castle gatehouse. Free parking available in Carisbrooke Castle car park.*

*Aiming to see: Small, Adonis and Common Blue*

**Friday 27 May**, Meet at 10:30am

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

*Leader: Sue Davies, Tel: 07702 151312*

*Directions: meet in the Afton Down chalk-pit car park beside A3055. On the No. 12 bus route. Some steep steps and uneven ground so wear sturdy footwear.*

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

**Wednesday 1 June**, meet at 9:00pm

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

*Leader: Ian Merrifield, Tel: 01983 297132*

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

*Moth trapping*

**Thursday 23 June**, meet at 10:30am

**Shide Chalk Pit, Pan Hill Meadows and Pan Country Park (SZ503881)**,

site: Isle of Wight Council LNR

*Leaders: Matthew Chatfield and Carol Flux, Gift to Nature, Tel: 01983 296244,*

*Email: [info@naturalenterprise.co.uk](mailto:info@naturalenterprise.co.uk)*

*Directions: meet at Shide Meadows Centre, Shide Road, Newport PO30 1HR. Turn alongside National Tyres to reach the centre and car park behind.*

*Butterfly survey: these sites have lots of potential but have not been surveyed properly before.*

**Wednesday 6 July**, meet at 10:30am

**St Catherine's Point (SZ500757)**, site: National Trust

*Leader: Andy Butler, Tel: 01983 854925*

*Directions: meet at the top of Lighthouse Road, where roadside parking is available.*

*Please note that this walk is fairly strenuous with some steep slopes.*

*Aiming to see: High-summer butterflies and search for White-letter Hairstreak*

**Sunday 17 July**, meet at 10:30am

**Northwood Cemetery (SZ493948)**

*Leader: Friends of Northwood Cemetery,*

*Email: [historian@friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk](mailto:historian@friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk)*

*Directions: meet in the Cowes Medical Centre car park, 200 Newport Road, Cowes PO31 7ER. Parking for this event is with kind permission of the medical centre but is at your own risk. Also note that there may be restoration work going on in the cemetery and therefore be careful around any equipment that may be lying around.*

*Aiming to see: Purple Hairstreak and other summer butterflies*

**Saturday 23 July**, meet at 1:00pm

**Carisbrooke Castle, Newport (SZ485877)**, site: English Heritage

*Leader: Stuart Read, Tel: 07877 333734, Email: [s.jread@btinternet.com](mailto:s.jread@btinternet.com)*

*Directions: meet in front of Carisbrooke Castle gatehouse. Free parking available in Carisbrooke Castle car park.*

*Aiming to see: Chalkhill Blue, Marbled White and skippers*

**Thursday 11 August**, meet at 10:30am

**Mottistone Down (SZ420845)**, site: National Trust

*Leader: Caroline Dudley, Tel: 01983 754935*

*Directions: meet at the NT Jubilee car park, Mottistone Down.*

*Aiming to see: Grayling and other downland butterflies*

*Caroline Dudley, IoW Events Organiser*





# Marsh Fritillary

## Re-introducing the Marsh Fritillary to north-east Hampshire

I am delighted to let members know that we raised almost £6,200 for our ambitious plan to re-introduce the Marsh Fritillary to its former stronghold sites in north-east Hampshire. This is the largest sum ever raised from a BC branch member appeal and shows a wonderful level of support for the project. Thank you to all those members who have been able to support the project, both financially and in kind.

Since our last Newsletter we have shared our plans with Natural England and I am delighted to report that we have been issued with the necessary licences to capture c.300 Marsh Fritillary larvae from colonies across east Dartmoor this autumn. The larvae will be brought to Hampshire and distributed between three breeders to begin a 2½-year captive breeding programme. In the meantime, 3000 Devil's-bit Scabious plants are happily growing in insecticide-free conditions with a small family-owned business in Devon. These plants will provide the food for our hungry caterpillars.



*Marsh Fritillary larvae feeding on Devil's-bit Scabious. Clive Wood*

Our immediate next steps are to finalise our captive breeding strategy with the breeders and to plan the detail of the larval capture work. It would be fair to say that few books have been written on the subject!

The project is a partnership with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and the Ministry of Defence Estates. We have enjoyed great support from staff at Butterfly Conservation Head Office and from Devon Wildlife Trust, the ecology team at the Dartmoor National Park Authority, from Natural England and from the Devon branch of Butterfly Conservation. There remains much to do but we are grateful for their advice and encouragement.

We will keep you up-to-date with developments via the newsletter and our website.

***Clive Wood and Dr Andy Barker***



## Pearl-bordered Fritillary

### Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary in Crisis

Under the 'New Forest Fritillaries for the Future' project, which commences this spring, strenuous efforts are to be made to arrest the steep decline in the fortunes of the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary in the New Forest.

The Small Pearl is now extinct in Sussex and lost from Powerstock Common, in west Dorset. It remains in a parlous state in Bentley Wood and in the New Forest, at Roydon/Setley and Wootton/Holmsley. At all of these locations its numbers are no better than single figures.

We need help with monitoring during the flight season in the Wootton and Holmsley complex. This would involve visiting either Wootton Coppice Inclosure or nearby Holmsley Inclosure and conducting a count by walking the area. Guidance, such as a map or joining someone familiar with the Inclosure, would be offered to ensure optimum monitoring be achieved. This in turn will help guide habitat management the following winter.



Any help would be of assistance, be it for a couple of hours or two or three visits during the six-week flight period. The Small Pearl is a BAP High-Priority species and is on the wing from late May.

Anyone interested is invited to contact Bob Ansell – Tel. 02380 840 316,  
Email: [grahants23@gmail.com](mailto:grahants23@gmail.com) or John Ruppertsbery – Tel. 02380 663 492

***John Ruppertsbery***



## Elm breakthrough

One of the few highlights of an otherwise mediocre butterfly year was the discovery by Rob Wilson of White-letter Hairstreaks colonizing a hybrid elm cultivar resistant to Dutch elm disease (DED) at Newport, Isle of Wight. The cultivar, 'Nanguen', better known by its selling name LUTECE, was one of the last trees raised by the Dutch research team at Wageningen, and adopted by the French quango INRA, which patented the tree in 2000. Meanwhile in Hertfordshire, the butterfly was also found breeding on 'Sapporo Autumn Gold', probably the most widely planted elm cultivar in Western Europe.



*LUTECE, Towngate,  
Newport*

*White-letter  
Hairstreak*

The discovery on LUTECE was particularly satisfying, as the cultivar's phenology differs markedly from that of the butterfly's reputedly preferred native, the Wych Elm. While it flowers at much the same time, leafing is retarded until mid-May, which had hitherto left a question mark over the butterfly's powers of adaptation. Ten LUTECE were donated to the Branch by SAPHO, the French plant breeders' association, two years ahead of its commercial release. The trees came to the attention of the Island2000 trust (now Natural Enterprise), which planted 4,500 on the Wight from 2003, together with other cultivars such as the fastigiate 'San Zanobi' from Italy.

LUTECE is not an unqualified success however; its top-growth can outstrip root development in infancy, requiring continued staking until age six. Nor is it a tree of much aesthetic merit, bifurcating readily to produce multiple steeply ascending branches rather than the preferred single leader. Its foliage resembles that of the native Field Elm *U. minor* and, as with that species, it can also sucker from the roots to form a clump, unlike the 'Sapporo Autumn Gold' genre derived from crossings of Siberian and Japanese elms.

The Branch's current interest is in the DED-resistant strains of the Field Elm discovered by Madrid University, sent to the Branch for trialling in our much wetter climate. The Field Elm is a well-known host of the White-letter Hairstreak; the rather bizarre life-cycle of the butterfly can be seen on this tree in the excellent 14-minute film produced by Var-Wild in the south of France: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vdDNGF2HDh0>

**Andrew Brookes**  
ptelea22@outlook.com



## Bee Moth *Aphomis sociella*

Birds are not the only creatures attracted to nest boxes: spiders, woodlice, beetles and all manner of other creepy crawlies take refuge there, often making it their winter home. The mossy or grassy remains of nests offer additional insulation and protection from the weather. And it is not only birds that make their nests inside a handy box: bumblebees, especially the Tree Bumblebee, *Bombus hypnorum*, (below) are well known nest box colonisers. This bumblebee is a relatively recent arrival, which was first recorded in 2001 in Wiltshire. It has since become quite widespread and is common at Exbury.



*Tree Bumblebee. Paul Brock*

When a colleague and I were cleaning out some nest boxes in January we came upon something I had not seen before. Attached to the underside of the lid of three of the boxes was a dense, sticky mass filling about one-third to one-half of the box (right). It was extremely difficult to detach and I had to use a screwdriver to pry it off. Once off, it was still hard to pull it apart. It resembled a dense soft felty cloth, but I noticed that it seemed to have tunnels running through it and after a while we found maggots inside the tunnels.





*Nest of Bee Moth. Juliet Bloss*

After a bit of investigation I discovered that the nest boxes had indeed been taken over by tree bumblebees, which in turn had been predated by Bee Moths, *Aphomia sociella*, (below). This is a small olive-grey moth, with a pinkish area on its forewings, sometimes confused with Wax Moths, a serious pest of beehives. Bee Moths lay their eggs in a web and feed on nest material and other detritus. When the larvae have developed fully they feed on the wax cells where the bumblebee's own larvae are developing, but do not usually destroy the entire brood. There is not much that can be done to deter them, but I hope that clearing them out and disposing of their nests will reduce the population somewhat, and allow the bees to breed successfully. One possible benefit might be to provide a winter larder for the Blue Tits. A pair was scolding angrily as we cleaned out the boxes.

***Juliet Bloss***



*Bee Moths. Mary Macmillan*



## Butterfly Miscellany

### What to do on a dark and dismal winter's day

It may be a wet and gloomy winter's day, but I am out among the butterflies. I only have to pick up Matthew Oates' recently published book *In Pursuit of Butterflies* to be transported back to the hot summer days that he writes about and my very similar experiences to those that he refers to in such a poetic style of writing. (I had never read prose before that seemed so much like poetry.)



On dismal days, one of Matthew's chapters will take me back to Alice Holt, Bernwood Forest, or wherever. In the former, I climbed up a 'fire look-out' structure to get within five or six feet of half a dozen Purple Emperor butterflies perching at eye-level on Sweet Chestnut florets. In Bernwood Forest, I used to watch Dr. Clarke (who was Secretary to the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Naturalist Trust) releasing adult Iris after collecting the eggs the previous year and successfully rearing them through. Usually, their first flight would only be a few yards to the nearest Sallow where they would settle for a while opening and closing their wings to display that beautifully purple sheen that is so delightful.

It was in Bernwood Forest that I was talking to a passing lepidopterist when an Emperor flew down and settled on the back of a lower leg of his jeans. I was able to lie on my stomach and take a really good photograph of it. I said to him 'that butterfly looked as if it was obtaining salts from your jeans' and he said that they were several years old and had never been washed! When the photograph was developed, the proboscis clearly showed that it was feeding. On another occasion, at the edge of the Forest, a Purple Emperor flew up from the melting tar on the road to settle inside my crash helmet after I had alighted from my motor cycle, much to my surprise.

I can remember sitting under a shady tree with Matthew and other members of the Branch eating our lunchtime sandwiches during one of the guided walks many years ago and realising how enthusiastic he is about butterflies and particularly the Purple Emperor. If you want to brighten your day, I can recommend reading one of Matthew's chapters... but don't read the book all at once, because there may be other gloomy days ahead.

*Peter Martin*



Coming soon...

## HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT BUTTERFLY WALKS

As announced at the AGM last October, the Branch is publishing a guide to 25 butterfly walks across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Written by Kevin Freeborn and illustrated by Ashley Whitlock's super butterfly photography, the book offers the exciting prospect of seeing all 46 Hampshire and Isle of Wight butterfly species in 25 walks. This is the perfect introduction to butterflies and to some of the very best sites for seeing them in both counties. The routes visit 34 outstanding places of wildlife interest and take in wonderful butterfly habitats on heath and down, in woodland and along the coast.

All proceeds raised from sales of the book will fund ongoing conservation work undertaken by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch.

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Butterfly Walks  
ISBN: 978-0-95689-355-0  
RRP: £6.00  
Publication: May 2016



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



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

Details about the book and how to order it will be shown on the branch website. It will also be available to buy online on Butterfly Conservation's national website. The book will also be on sale at the Branch's stand at the events listed on page 3 of this newsletter. We also hope to sell the book through local retailers, visitor and information centres across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, and through some of the pubs and cafés closest to the walks and listed in the guide.

**Kevin Freeborn, Newsletter Editor**

## Book Review

New Forest Reflections by Rosemary and Dan Powell

ISBN 978 - 978-0-95722301-2-5

Pbk, 80pp - 248 x 175mm

£11 (inc P&P)

from [www.powellwildlifeart.com](http://www.powellwildlifeart.com)



This book is a first publishing venture by two artists whose work is well-known to members of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch. It is presented in a landscape format with a thick card cover and is 80 pages of gentle delight. It is a personal view – well two complementary views in an artistic sense – of their experiences and memories, from childhood, of ‘our’ National Park.

It makes no attempt to be comprehensive; it is a series of recollections and paintings chronicling their visits to favourite places through the seasons. They present the views, flora and fauna in their own distinctive styles. Most of the illustrations are watercolours, but line drawings and representations of their sketchbooks/pads are included which help show how they both work. Dan’s style is freer and has a delightful fluidity, landscapes, larger animals and birds being his main subjects. Rosemary is more detailed, as her subjects require, with an emphasis on butterflies, flowers, fungi and other insects.



This is a book about places and times of year and day, a book of moods, seasons and impressions. To those who know the Forest, it will bring back memories and will inspire further visits, perhaps with a different perspective. To those who don’t, it may well serve as an introduction and an encouragement to visit. Its gentleness encourages the reader to slow down, read and enjoy the experiences and the many images the Powells have created from the way they see this beautiful part of Hampshire.

**Roger Buchanan**

A donation will be made to BC for any sale generated by this review.

The Butterfly Year  
Haiku verse by Richard Stewart



Under the deep snow  
And beneath daggers of ice  
New life is waiting.

Late February  
A calm day with warming sun  
The first butterfly.

Out of long sleeping darkness  
A Comma with widespread wings  
Soaking up the sun.

Prefers hedge garlic  
Warmed by rays of evening sun  
Roosting Orange-tip.

On such a dull day  
Even a single Small White  
Brightens the landscape.

From a coal blackness  
To this large-eyed radiance  
Peacock's open wings.

Along the leaf spine  
Brimstone caterpillar rests  
Green on green unseen.

Green Hairstreaks emerge  
With a scent of yellow gorse  
Heavy on the breeze.

Common Blues in grass  
A mundane name for these bright  
Reflections of sky.

Drifting and gliding  
The white petal flutters down  
Becomes a Wood White.

Two Peacocks spiral  
Up and up into blue sky  
Drifting with white clouds.

In the bramble glade  
Large Whites glide like admirals  
Through shafts of sunlight.

A bright Swallowtail  
Wings luminous in the sun  
Be still and thankful.

Flying to the feast  
Vanessids land on the first  
Sunlit buddleia.

On grey paving slabs  
Wide wings of Small Tortoiseshells  
Basking in the sun.

Two feeding Commas  
On fermenting blackberries  
Out of the wind's edge.

Juicy chunks of plum  
A dripping pile on the lawn  
Feeding butterflies.

From a pine's darkness  
One Red Admiral seeks sun  
And the last nectar.

*Richard Stewart*



# Useful Contacts

## [www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk](http://www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk)

**Chairman:** Mike Wall, Mob: 07981 984761; Email: [mikewall@gofast.co.uk](mailto:mikewall@gofast.co.uk)

**Vice-Chairman:** Clive Wood, Tel: 01962 852620; Mob: 07833 088150;  
Email: [clivepwood@btinternet.com](mailto:clivepwood@btinternet.com)

**Branch Organiser:** Mary Macmillan; Tel: 01590 719563; Mob: 07803 022389;  
Email: [marymacmillan@talktalk.net](mailto:marymacmillan@talktalk.net)

**Treasurer:** Bridget Grande, Wield Manor Cottage, Upper Wield, Alresford, SO24 9RS;  
Tel: 01420 562876; Mob: 07768 741273; Email: [grande.bridget@gmail.com](mailto:grande.bridget@gmail.com)

**Minutes Secretary:** Penny Jeffreys, Tel: 01962 863018; Email: [pjbutterfly@sidrat.co.uk](mailto:pjbutterfly@sidrat.co.uk)

**Butterfly Recorder:** Bob Annell, Tel: 02380 840316; Email: [grahants23@gmail.com](mailto:grahants23@gmail.com)

**Transect Recorders:** Linda & Andy Barker, 13 Ashdown Close, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh,  
SO53 5QF; Tel: 023 8027 0042; Email: [lindabarker4@btinternet.com](mailto:lindabarker4@btinternet.com)

**Moth Records:** Mike Wall, Email: [mike@hantsmoths.org.uk](mailto:mike@hantsmoths.org.uk)

**Chairman Conservation Subcommittee:** Penny Jeffreys, Tel: 01962 863018;  
Email: [pjbutterfly@sidrat.co.uk](mailto:pjbutterfly@sidrat.co.uk)

**Chairman Information Subcommittee:** Clive Wood, Tel: 01962 852620; Mob: 07833 088150;  
Email: [clivepwood@btinternet.com](mailto:clivepwood@btinternet.com)

**Chairman Reserves Subcommittee:** Jenny Mallett, Great Fontley Farm, Fareham, PO15 6EA;  
Tel: 01329 832177; Email: [jennifer@mallett2.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:jennifer@mallett2.orangehome.co.uk)

**Webmaster:** Bob Whitmarsh, Email: [webmaster@hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk)

**Newsletter Editor:** Kevin Freeborn, Mob: 07929 278582; Email: [kevinfreeborn@btinternet.com](mailto:kevinfreeborn@btinternet.com)

**Reserves Officer and Health & Safety:** Jayne Chapman, Tel: 01962 808400;  
Email: [jchapman@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:jchapman@butterfly-conservation.org)

**Financial Adviser:** Arthur Greenwood, Tel: 01428 604730;  
Email: [greenwoodarthur@hotmail.com](mailto:greenwoodarthur@hotmail.com)

**Membership Secretary:** Sharron Broadway, Email: sharron\_broadway@hotmail.com

**Publicity Officer:** Richard Lemon, Email: richardlemonjnr@gmail.com

**Field Meetings Organiser:** Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266;  
Email: ashleywhitlock@virginmedia.com

**Isle of Wight Group:**

**Caroline Dudley (events):** Tel: 01983 754935; Email: caroline\_dudley@btopenworld.com

**Stuart Read (all other enquiries):** Tel: 07877 333734; Email: s.jread@btinternet.com

**Newsletter Designer:** Dan Powell. Email: danpowell11@btinternet.com

**Artworks:** Rosemary Powell. www.powellwildlifeart.com

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### Newsletter Deadline

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

The deadline for the autumn Newsletter, edition no. 101, is 26 August 2016

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

I took this skipper picture on Butterfly Conservation's European Interest Group 2015 visit to Macedonia. On the trip we clocked up one hundred different species in the first two-and-a-half days, and by the end of the week I had quite a pile of images to sort out. On the day this picture was taken, we had seen a fairly rare Sandy Grizzled Skipper in an area better known for the Macedonian Grayling, but 'my' skipper picture was taken later that day. Then in the evening, over a beer and examination of our various pictures, an experienced member of the group declared my picture also to be of a Sandy Grizzled Skipper. Foolishly, I accepted this without thought and it was a long time afterwards that I saw that it was actually the much more common Hungarian Skipper - see the big round spot near the rear wing leading edge? My lesson - beware of mixing butterfly identification with foreign beer!

*Ken Bailey*

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



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Registered Office: Manor Yard, East Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset BH20 5QP. Vat. No. 565 9070 16.

*Lepidoptera Tale Piece...*



*...for the full story go to the inside back cover. Hungarian Skipper – Ken Bailey*