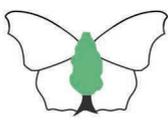


# Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch



Newsletter 101



Butterfly  
Conservation

October 2016



# Join us on a Winter Work Party at one of our reserves

The work we do is fun and varied, and benefits butterflies, moths, birds and other wildlife.

All you need is enthusiasm, stout footwear, gloves and a packed lunch. We provide all the necessary tools and training, and teach you a little bit about habitat management along the way.

Volunteers are crucial to tackling the practical management work that is necessary during the winter months. It is a great reason to get outside and get fit.



Please call Jayne Chapman for a chat if you would like to find out more:  
office: 01962 808400, mobile: 07909 968657  
or email: [jchapman@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:jchapman@butterfly-conservation.org)

**So... get your boots on and bring a friend!**



## Chairman's Message

Welcome to the autumn 2016 edition of the branch newsletter, my last as chairman of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch. It has been an interesting three years at the helm which has seen a lot of change and at the branch level, we are in a very strong position.

In a wider context, I would have hoped to have ended my stint on a more positive note but unfortunately see more grounds for pessimism than optimism. This has been another mixed year for Lepidoptera in our two counties, the warm weather of the last few weeks masking what has been a generally cool and often wet first half of the year, and butterfly and moth numbers have correspondingly been at a low ebb. The true reflection of just how our butterflies have fared will not be known until the records from our dedicated pool of transect walkers is collated at the end of the year, but I expect it will show declines for many species.



*Wall Brown - Rosemary Powell*

Perhaps more importantly in the long term, the vote to exit the European Union has brought considerable uncertainty to the country as a whole, and to organisations such as ourselves, it poses a direct threat of reduced funding through reduced environmental stewardship grants - as and when Natural England are in a position to clarify exactly what shape these will take, which won't be anytime soon. Butterfly Conservation, alongside other environmental NGOs, will have to adapt quickly or struggle to be able to maintain existing commitments, let alone plan for expansion. We can only hope that the situation is clarified soon, for better or for worse, as what any business needs is certainty to enable planning.

Our countryside is under considerable threat, our invertebrate fauna declining and it needs all the support our members can give. Our branch remains strong with one of the largest memberships in the country: under Clive coming in as the new chair and a strong committee structure, in which I look forward to continuing to participate actively, we are well placed to support BC in delivering their local objectives, particularly in running three of the best butterfly reserves in the country.

*Mike Wall, Branch Chair*



*Comma - Rosemary Powell*

### **Moth Conference 2017**

The next Branch Moth Conference will be held on Saturday 25 February 2017 at Littleton Memorial Hall. More details will follow in due course but in the meantime please put the date into your diary.



# Members' Day and Branch AGM

All members of the Branch are warmly invited to attend this year's Annual General Meeting at the Littleton Memorial Hall, Littleton, near Winchester, on **Sunday 16 October, 2016.**

Our guest speakers include **Matthew Oates** who will be known to many of you as a naturalist, author, broadcaster and expert on all things to do with His Majesty the Purple Emperor. We are also pleased to be joined by **Catherine Bertrand**, BC's Senior Regional Officer for Northern Ireland.

A timetable is shown below and a location map on page 4. We would like to draw the attention of members to two significant changes from previous AGMs:

## 1. TIMINGS

Members are asked to bring a packed lunch to the AGM. Proceedings will commence an hour earlier than usual to accommodate time for lunch after the formal business of the day has been completed and to bring the meeting to an earlier close.

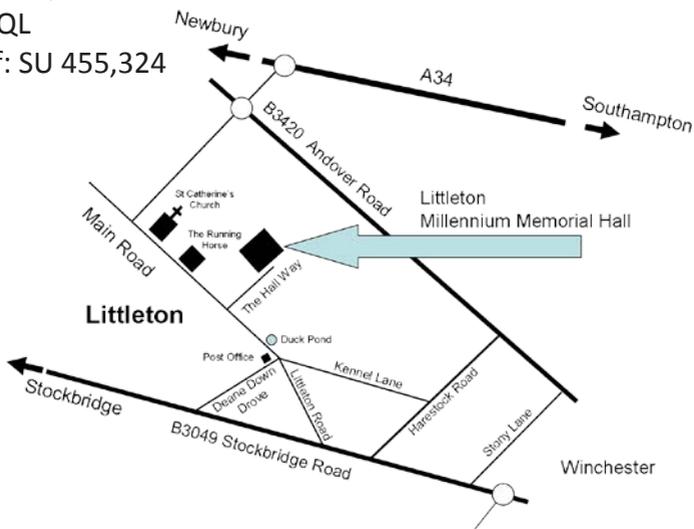
## 2. PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

We are very keen to encourage entries from any member who may not have entered the competition before. Please see page 5 for more information.

## Timetable for the day

11:30	Doors open
12:00-12:05	Chairman's Welcome
12:05-13:00	Branch AGM – see separate agenda on next page
13:00-13:45	Lunch – please bring your own packed lunch; complimentary tea and coffee will be provided
13:45-14:30	Matthew Oates, National Specialist on Nature, National Trust, on <i>Beyond In Pursuit of Butterflies</i>
14:30-15:00	Catherine Bertrand, BC Senior Regional officer, Northern Ireland
15:00-15:40	Refreshments and photographic competition
15:40-15:55	Marsh Fritillary re-introduction: project update
15:55-16:10	Striped Lychnis project: Tony Davis
16:10-16:25	Questions and answers
16:25-16:30	Photographic competition results and close

Littleton Millennium Memorial Hall,  
The Hall Way,  
Littleton,  
Winchester,  
SO22 6QL  
Grid ref: SU 455,324



## Annual General Meeting 2016

### AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Presentation of Accounts
5. Reports of the:
  - Conservation Sub-committee
  - Information Sub-committee
  - Reserves Sub-committee
  - Records Sub-committee
6. Chairman's Report
7. Election of Main Committee members and any changes
8. Health and Safety matters
9. Any other business
10. Close of AGM

**Any other business items should be notified to the Chair or Branch Secretary by 9th October, 2016**

## Photographic Competition

Prints will be displayed and judged in the following categories:

- UK Butterflies
- UK Moths
- Immature stages
- Overseas butterflies and moths

All images must be prints not exceeding an image size equivalent to A4 (297x210mm) in landscape or portrait format. Entries are limited to a total of three prints per member. The former category of Behaviour has been subsumed into these four categories.

We are also introducing a **new category** this year:

- Images from first-time entrants

Images for **this category only** may be sent digitally to:

**clivepwood@btinternet.com**

by no later than midnight **Sunday 9 October**. Entries are limited to three per member. All entries will be reviewed by a member of Main Committee and the best six entries in the opinion of the judges will be printed and displayed at the AGM.

All members attending the meeting will be invited to complete a voting slip to identify their favourite image in each category and to choose their overall winning entry. The results will be collated and the winner announced at the end of the meeting.

Members unable to attend but who wish to submit prints may do so by post to:

Clive Wood, 68 St Cross Road, Winchester, SO23 9PS to arrive by **Saturday 15 October**. Please ensure you enclose a stamped addressed envelope if you wish your prints to be returned.

*Red Admiral - Rosemary Powell*



## NEW MEMBERS

We warmly welcome all our new members. How about having a go at entering the photographic competition run at the Branch AGM and Members' Day, especially the category for first-time entrants?

Miss J Armson, Basingstoke  
Mr G K Butler, Southsea  
Mrs S and Mr C Atkins, Southampton  
Mrs K and Mr D Bain and Family, Portsmouth  
Miss A Bain and Mr P Thompson and Family  
Havant  
Miss S Barker, Basingstoke  
Mrs K Barrett, Winchester  
Mr D and Mrs J Beckingham, Newport  
Ms A Beunier, Fleet  
Mr S Bishop, Whitchurch  
Mr D Bowley-Booth, Basingstoke  
Mr Andrew Boyd, Ringwood  
Mr L and Mrs T Brannon, Gosport  
Mrs E Browne, Southampton  
Ms K Burton and Family, Fareham  
Miss H Butt, Southampton  
Mrs J M Carr, Yarmouth  
Miss J Case, Southampton  
Mr R and Mrs B Cazalet and Family, Winchester  
Mr Martin Chapman, Hook  
Mrs S Chatfield, Sandhurst  
Mrs S Clare and Mr D Hughes, Carisbrooke  
Mr H E Clarke, Leatherhead  
Mr A and Mrs D Clasby, Southampton  
Mr J Claxton, Southampton  
Miss E Collins, Fareham  
Mrs J and Mr B Davies and Family, Brading  
Ms E De Haes, Winchester  
Ms S Deaville-Lockhart, Sandown  
Ms S Delemare, Southampton  
Mrs R and Mr M Derby and Family, Winchester  
Mrs P Dick, Petersfield  
Mr T J Dingle, Fordingbridge  
Mr J and Mrs P M Dowman, Launceston  
Mr A and Mrs M Downer, Shanklin  
Dr R Ekins and Mr R Collingridge, Ringwood  
Miss J Elrick, Newport  
Mr M Evans, Winchester  
Mrs B Flynn, Ryde  
Mrs H Fotheringham, Southampton  
Mr M Fox, Romsey  
Mrs H George, Sandown  
Miss S Glass, Fareham  
Miss K Goodfield, Winchester  
Mrs T Goodley, Ryde  
Ms R Greenfield, Bordon  
Mr J Gulliver-Clarke, Portsmouth  
Miss A Hall, Portsmouth  
Miss D Hill, Waterlooville  
Mr R Hills, Petersfield  
Miss L Holder and Mr B Havers and Family,  
Southampton  
Miss B Horrex and Miss N Salter, Winchester  
Mr G Hutton, Portsmouth  
Mrs M Irvine, Portsmouth  
Mrs L Jackson, Fordingbridge  
Mr A James, Bordon  
Ms J Jones, Southsea  
Mr B and Mrs J Jones, Southampton  
Mrs E Jones, Romsey  
Mr D Kallmer, Ashford  
Mr P Kennedy, Southampton  
Mrs J and Mr F Kennedy and Family, Andover  
Mr S Kerr-Smiley, Winchester  
Mrs D Lee, Salisbury  
Mr P J Lewington, Basingstoke  
Mrs T Lewis, Southampton  
Mrs K Lobb, Andover  
Mrs P and Dr J A F Lockwood, Ventnor  
Mr P Lowe, Southampton  
Miss G Lydall, Basingstoke  
Miss E MacLachlan, Basingstoke  
Mrs R Maidment, Sandown  
Mr P Mantle, Stockbridge  
Mr C Maple, Stockbridge  
Ms J McCartney, Hayling Island  
Miss M Meeks, Winchester  
Mr E Morris, Basingstoke  
Mrs S E Pape, Alton  
Mrs C and Mr J Parkhouse, Southampton  
Mr D and Mrs C Parsons and Family,  
Southampton  
Mrs G Phipps, Basingstoke  
Mrs J and Mr K Pim, Southampton  
Ms G Plynton, Ryde  
Ms C Polley, Andover  
Mrs A Potts, Farnham

Mrs D Reeves, Alton	Mr and Mrs S Sheppard, Petersfield
Mr John Rich, Jersey	Mr P and Mrs S Shutler, Newport
Mr D Robertson, Hambledon	Mr N Simpson, Southampton
Miss J Robertson, Freshwater	Mrs J Smallwood, Southampton
Ms J Robinson, Stockbridge	Mrs J Squillaci, Basingstoke
Ms C Robinson, Freshwater	Mrs A Swain, Wimborne
Mr N and Mrs R Rose, Bournemouth	Mr D Swan, Fleet
Mr D and Mrs C Rowe, Southampton	Mr M Taylor, Newport
Mr M Rowlands, Southampton	Mrs E and Mr R Taylor, Andover
Mrs V and Mr S Rowles and Family, Basingstoke	Mr J E G and Mrs M R Taylor, Winchester
Miss A Royle, Basingstoke	Mrs N Taylor, Lymington
Mrs A M Sainsbury, Andover	Dr J Thompson, Winchester
Dr M Samuel, Winchester	Ms C Treveltham and Mr M Fouracre, Southsea
Mrs A Saunders, Southampton	Mr D Trevor-Jones, Basingstoke
Miss S Schoolcraft and Mr D Ashman and Family, Southampton	Mr M Ward, Basingstoke
Mrs L Sharp, Southampton	Miss B J Ware, Fordingbridge
Mrs E Shearing, Andover	Miss C Warwick, Basingstoke
Mr G Shelford, Farnham	Mr Simon Withers, Southsea

***Sharron Broadway, Membership Secretary***



*Dark Green Fritillary - Rosemary Powell*



## Butterfly Records and Recording

As is usual, we are receiving only a few records as the season progresses – most will arrive from October onwards with hopefully a good number by the end of November. This will provide our Species Report Writers with adequate data to formulate their 2016 contributions to the next Annual Butterfly Report.

Unfortunately you will need to wait for the 2017 Spring Newsletter before we can confirm details of the one millionth Hampshire Record!

Our most unusual record so far is a Citrus Swallowtail, in Sholing. A first for the county.



*Citrus Swallowtail - Karel Gallas/Shutterstock*

We are always looking for images to include in the Annual Report, so please forward any you have to me before the end of year for consideration.

As part of the 'Fritillaries in the Forest' project, a conscientious team of over twenty recorders monitored three New Forest Inclosures on a daily basis during the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary flight period. Alas, not even one sighting of this locally declining species.

The Records Sub-committee is now meeting regularly and working hard to ensure that all of your records are verified and transferred to the County Database. Each year's records are sent to Butterfly Conservation at Lulworth for inclusion on the National Database and also to Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre. It is essential we maintain robust and accurate records because these are often used by authorities considering local and strategic Planning Applications.

An 'extra' data source this year will be the Garden Butterfly Survey where you can enter butterflies seen in your garden throughout the year. Co-ordinated for many years by Dr Margaret Vickery, this year, our former Branch Chairman, Peter Eeles, has developed and introduced a web-based system for you to enter your records. This will enable us to produce ongoing analyses of the butterflies in Hampshire gardens.

As always, many thanks for submitting your data. It helps us tremendously if you ensure that full and accurate details are provided in order that we can verify and consolidate the data easily. Please use the recognised recording methods, i.e. Branch Spreadsheet, Living Record, iRecord, etc. as I fear some valuable records are being missed because they are only reported on the Branch Website/facebook page.

**Bob Annell**

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

grahants23@gmail.com

23 Ashleigh Close, Hythe, Southampton, SO45 3QN

Tel: 023 8084 0316



*Silver-spotted Skipper*  
- Ashley Whitlock



## Reserves News

Not such the good summer that we had hoped for, and my earlier optimism that the Chalkhill Blue would fare better than 2015 looks to be unfounded with numbers on transect very similar to the previous year at MHD, and even fewer recorded at Yew Hill. My prediction for the butterfly of this year will be the Gatekeeper, which was seen in good numbers throughout our reserves. Having said that, we are now well into a warm spell and Brown Argus have been fairly consistent, although the Adonis Blue never really did make a return to Magdalen this year, despite unconfirmed sightings.



*New gates and stiles at Magdalen Hill Down - Jayne Chapman*

It has been an excellent year for ragwort – depending on how you view the plant and the hysteria and myth that surround it. I personally can think of nothing nicer than spending a few hours on a sunny day surrounded by flowering ragwort and dozens of species of nectaring insects and bees. Not everyone shares my enthusiasm for this beneficial plant, however, and we have received the usual complaints from concerned horse owners over worries of seed dispersal infesting local paddocks in the vicinity. Horses do not eat the live plant (only if it becomes palatable after cutting, and ends up in hay). In a very interesting report (commissioned by Natural England in 2013) estimates suggest that consumption of between 10 and 30kg fresh weight of ragwort over its lifetime would be a lethal dose for a horse, depending on body weight. That is approximately the equivalent of an average bale of hay.



*Preparing the wildflower area for the new cemetery extension - Jayne Chapman*

One of the highlights of this season's walks and events was a visit from Butterfly Conservation's Council and Conservation Strategy Committee on Saturday 14th May. The attendees were divided into two groups and were given guided tours covering all aspects of Magdalen Hill Down and its management by Andy Barker and myself.

The Small Blue has continued to increase its range across Magdalen Hill Down and along to Morn Hill where it has been recorded in good numbers on the 'Mound Meadow', a private area that is now managed by the Branch on behalf of the Holiday Inn. This area also supports Grizzled Skipper, as does the adjacent Percy Hobbs meadow (the Branch has taken this area on a 5-year lease from Hampshire County Council Highways). The meadow has been cleared of invading scrub, fenced, and sown with wildflower seed with the help of the SDVRS (South Downs Volunteer Rangers). It is looking very promising.

The Dingy Skipper is a little butterfly that has faced serious declines in recent years, and one that we are going to focus our efforts on in the coming years. Following a visit to MHD from Mike Slater (Warwickshire Branch), I was inspired by Mike's habitat manipulation techniques for this species. The idea is very simple yet effective. The foodplant - Common Bird's-foot-trefoil - is carefully surrounded by imported low nutrient status substrate, such as crushed limestone. The leaves are positioned to lie across the top of the aggregate, and low and behold, a female will readily lay her eggs on this newly created habitat. The butterfly is often seen off transect, but it is often missed on transect – seven individuals were recorded off transect by Colin Beyer on the 14th April on the Original downland, and on the 7th May, Colin and I noted five Dingy Skipper and six Grizzled Skipper on Area E at the foot of the Extension at MHD. We need to look at close monitoring of the Dingy Skipper, including species counts, if we are to be successful in creating new areas of habitat and understanding the range and distribution within the vicinity. Please get in touch if you would like to be involved in this project.



*Small Tortoiseshell on Pyramidal orchid MHD Extension - Jayne Chapman*



*Sheep grazing the new Percy Hobbs Meadow - Jayne Chapman*

Ongoing problems with the ground conditions over the winter at Bentley Station Meadow, and the inevitable poaching by livestock has led to us rethinking our grazing regime. This has coincided with financial cut-backs, and the ever increasing problems of animal movements and TB testing. In May we were offered a small herd of semi-feral Exmoor ponies which have been grazing the Wiltshire Downs, and following careful consideration of the grazing abilities of this breed, we made the decision to give them a try. They will begin their career with us at Bentley Station Meadow this year before being moved to one of our other Hampshire reserves.



*Peacock larvae at MHD  
- Jayne Chapman*

The early part of the year produced some good results at BSM, with 42 butterflies of 10 species seen on the 8th May, including 25 Orange-tip and a male cuckoo heard calling in the background.



*Best of friends - Sue Lambert*

Herb Paris *Paris quadrifolia* continues to colonise new areas of the reserve, which is good news considering its decline in Europe due to a reduction in broadleaved woodland, its primary habitat. Herb Paris has limited dispersal abilities and is slow to colonise new areas. The conservation of ancient broadleaved woodland is therefore key to preventing further decline of the species.

Look out for the livestock which will now start to arrive for the winter grazing. I will shortly be sending out locations and rotas to the volunteers who check them on a regular basis. Many thanks to you all who help in so many ways to manage our Hampshire reserves.

***Jayne Chapman, Reserves Officer***



*Family Fun Day at MHD – face painting and butterfly walks - Jayne Chapman*



*Branch field trip to Martin Down - Ashley Whitlock*



# Winter Work Party Programme

## MAGDALEN HILL DOWN

**October – Saturday 1st; Leader – Jayne Chapman**

### **Jubilee Clump**

Machine to cut paths. Rake and burn.

**October – Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th; Leader – Jayne Chapman**

### **Area 4 boundary with Extension**

Clear scrub encroaching on downland

**November – Wednesday 9th; Leader – Jayne Chapman**

### **Allotments**

Clear up and burn following hedge flail. Trailer available.

**November – Friday 18th; Leader – Jayne Chapman**

### **Allotments**

As above, plus clear fence lines. Trailer available.

**December – Monday 5th; Leader – Jayne Chapman**

### **Top of A4 with Northdown**

Cut encroaching trees/scrub from footpath. Rake and burn.

**December – Friday 9th; Leader – Jayne Chapman**

### **Pathfield**

Cutting scrub out of grassland/clear fence lines. Hand tools/tree poppers.

**January – Monday 9th; Leader – Jayne Chapman**

### **Tumuli**

Clear bramble/scrub. Rake and burn. Hand-tools.

**January – Monday 16th; Leader Jayne Chapman**

### **Extension**

Cut scrub out of grassland and clear fence line around Rosebay Corner. Fire and hand tools.

**January – Wednesday 18th, Thursday 19th and Friday 20th;**

### **Leader – Dean Gregory. T and S East**

Duke of Burgundy – habitat management and fence clearing.

**February – Wednesday 1st, Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd;**

### **Leader – Dean Gregory. T and S East**

Duke of Burgundy – habitat management and fence clearing.

**February – Wednesday 8th, Thursday 9th and Friday 10th;**

### **Leader – Dean Gregory. Areas 1 and 2/Area 3**

Clear Diagonal path and remove fence (NB meet at the entrance opposite St Swithun's School).

**March – Monday 6th; Leader – Jayne Chapman**

### **T and S West**

Cut scrub and bramble. Rake and burn. Clear fence lines (NB meet at the entrance opposite St Swithun's School).

<b>YEW HILL</b>
<b>October – Monday 17th; Leader – Jayne Chapman Hilltop</b> Clearing fence line. Tree popping scrub on Hilltop. Hand tools.
<b>BENTLEY STATION MEADOW</b>
<b>October – Wednesday 5th; Leader – Jayne Chapman Oak Copse</b> Clear oak/ash regeneration. Pollard buckthorn. Crown-lift elm.
<b>November – Wednesday 2nd; Leader – Jayne Chapman North Meadow</b> Tree pop. Clear blackthorn. Pollard willow/hawthorn.
<b>December – Wednesday 7th; Leader – Jayne Chapman Central Area</b> Fell birch. Remove sycamore. Pollard willow by bridge.
<b>January – Wednesday 4th; Leader – Jayne Chapman All areas</b> Remove wind-blown trees.
<b>February – Wednesday 1st; Leader – Jayne Chapman South Meadow</b> Pollard willow near well. Remove sycamore. Reduce hedge height.
<b>March – Wednesday 1st; Leader – Jayne Chapman To be decided during the winter</b>

**Magdalen Hill Down:** 10am - 4pm. Meet at the top of the track between the Stonemasons and Morn Hill Cemetery (SU 512 295) unless stated otherwise.

**Yew Hill:** 10am - 4pm. Park at the end of Old Kennels Lane, Oliver's Battery (SU 451 269). Please come and find us on the Reserve.

**Bentley Station Meadow:** 10am - 3pm: Park in the pay & display Station car park, and walk across the railway track to the meadow, SU 792 432. Alternatively, park in the free Forestry Commission car park off Gravel Hill Road SU 802 433, and walk through the FC to the reserve.

If you cannot get to the meet points at 10am, please find us on the Reserves.

## How you can get involved

As well as the dates listed above, I also send out an email for extra work parties when we have one-off jobs to tackle, or if the weather has forced us to cancel any of the pre-planned dates. If you would like to be added to this list, please email your contact details to: [jchapman@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:jchapman@butterfly-conservation.org)

Please call me to find out more – office: 01962 808400, or mobile: 07909 968657, and DO PLEASE PHONE ME IF THE WEATHER IS BAD TO CHECK THAT THE WORK PARTY WILL GO AHEAD.

*Jayne Chapman, Reserves Officer*



## 2016 Field Trips Round Up



*The class of 2016 assembling for the Old Winchester Hill field trip - Ashley Whitlock*

The 2016 field trip season got off to a good start in bright weather on Sunday 1 May with the launch of *Hampshire and Isle of Wight Butterfly Walks* with Kevin Freeborn at Catherington Down (see page 20). At Little Butser Hill we saw our target species and more with a splattering of newly hatched Duke of Burgundies, along with Dingy and Grizzled Skippers. On Stockbridge Down, the Green Hairstreak was noted in good numbers, along with the Pearl-bordered Fritillary flying amongst the Woodland Spurge in the coppiced area, with several Dukes keeping the Pearls away from their territories!

Good numbers of Pearl-bordered Fritillaries were seen in the New Forest, while we were richly rewarded for the long haul out to Martin Down with good counts of Marsh Fritillary and Adonis Blue.

On Portsdown Hill, the Small Blue and freshly hatched Marbled Whites were seen with many lovely orchids along the footpaths, and many of us enjoyed the faint calls of the Cuckoo at several sites during the month of May and early in June.

One of my favourite field trips now is the Duke of Burgundy caterpillar hunt and this year was a huge success with seven larvae spotted amongst the good show of Cowslips on Butser Hill. We also had the magnificent Dark Green Fritillary gliding up and down the steep slopes on the north facing hillside.

There was great success at Farley Mount, with my 100% record of seeing a Purple Emperor on a field trip still intact, and 'he' graced us with his presence for about five minutes on the floor at West Wood, keeping all the field trippers more than happy.



*Purple Emperor - Ashley Whitlock*

There were downsides too, the Havant Thicket trip was a washout in the morning, but those of us who braved the inclement weather were greeted with good numbers of female White Admirals in the afternoon after the sun finally shone through. However, the Purple Emperor was not noted here, although it was seen on the Abbots Wood Inclosure field trip at its usual assembly points.

Those who made the trip to Shipton Bellinger were rewarded with good views of the Brown Hairstreak, always a treat, and on Oxenbourne Down and Old Winchester Hill good numbers of chalk grassland species were enjoyed by everyone who came.

I'd like to personally thank everyone who came along and enjoyed the walks in 2016, and hope to see you all again in 2017.

***Ashley Whitlock, Field Meetings Organiser***



## Hampshire and Isle of Wight Butterfly Walks

Surely there can be no better butterfly-related Christmas present than a copy of *Butterfly Walks*! The guide has 25 family-friendly walks to some of the most outstanding and very special places of wildlife interest in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.



*Ashley Whitlock and Kevin Freeborn, compilers of the guide, launch Butterfly Walks at Catherington Down on Sunday 1 May 2016 - Ashley Whitlock*

A great excuse to get outdoors for some fresh air and (mostly) gentle exercise, the walks are lovely to do at any time of year, although the mud on the route through Butter Wood might be challenging in winter so do take your wellies for this one. There are tremendous views on many of the walks and the variety of habitats encountered reflect the wonderful diversity of landscape offered in both counties.

In season, the book offers the exciting prospect of seeing all 46 Hampshire and Isle of Wight butterfly species and takes you to 34 sites across heath and down, in woodland and along the coast.

Very significantly for branch finances, all proceeds raised from sales of the guide will be used to fund ongoing conservation work undertaken by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch.

The book will be on sale at the AGM and Members' Day on Sunday 16 October. Every member household should have a copy! And the book makes an ideal gift for family and friends, and helps spread the word of the work of Butterfly Conservation.

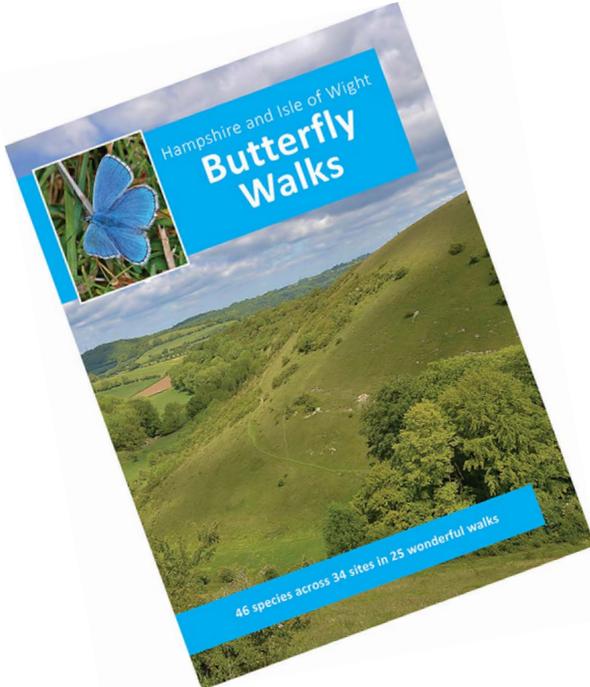
Details about the book and how to order it are available on the home page of the branch website. You can buy copies of the book online from the shop on the Butterfly Conservation website at

**<http://butterfly-conservation.myshopify.com/collections/frontpage/products/hampshire-and-isle-of-wight-butterfly-walks>**

It is also available by sending a cheque for £7.25 (£6 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

You can also email feedback to me about the book and the walks to **[butterflywalks@gmail.com](mailto:butterflywalks@gmail.com)**

*Kevin Freeborn, Newsletter Editor*





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

We are pleased to report that our project to re-introduce the Marsh Fritillary to sites in north-east Hampshire has continued to make great progress. Since our last update in the April newsletter we have achieved the following milestones:

- We made a successful bid to the John Spedan Lewis Foundation through our partners at the Hampshire & IoW Wildlife Trust. Together with other external fund-raising and the very successful Branch appeal we have now raised over £16,000 for the project. This covers all the funding we need for the direct re-introduction costs although further funding for capital management works at the re-introduction sites is still sought.
- We have taken delivery of 3,000 Devil's-bit Scabious plants and placed an order for a further 3,000 plants with an organic grower in Devon. The "Hampshire" plants are in good shape and growing well at three sites across the county plus a further 200+ grown on by Branch Member, Brian Fletcher. Some 2,000 have already been re-potted into larger containers with the help of a team of volunteers led by Andy and Linda. We are very grateful to the staff at the National Trust, Mottisfont, Hillier Nurseries, Romsey, and to Sparsholt College, Winchester, for providing facilities to store and nurture our larval foodplants.



*Devil's-bit Scabious - Andy Barker*

- We have recruited two new captive breeders after two of our original team had to step down for different reasons. The 20-page licencing requirements with Natural England have been completed for one of the new breeders but remains work in progress for the other.
- We have specified, ordered and taken part-delivery of four new captive breeding cages as part of a bulk order of 12 cages.
- We have re-visited the re-introduction sites and mapped the presence of Devil's-bit Scabious patches. As far as we can tell, the butterfly should be very happy in its new home!

In August we also visited twelve Marsh Fritillary colonies on east Dartmoor including all four of the proposed donor sites. Marsh Fritillary populations experience a natural cycle of boom and bust and numbers on two of the original donor sites appear to be experiencing a cyclical decline. However, populations on other sites and metapopulations on east Dartmoor appear strong and we remain hopeful that by the time this newsletter is printed we will have been able to take c300 4th stage larvae in September to form our breeding population. This will almost certainly be from a different combination of sites, landowners and metapopulations than originally envisaged. This part of the project has always had to remain flexible to reflect conditions at the time and we are working with BC's SW Regional Conservation Officer to assess the state of all the potential donor sites across Dartmoor. Her assessment is critical since we will not do anything that might weaken a donor site.



*Female Marsh Fritillary - Ashley Whitlock*

Finally, our thanks to David Walton, Judith Ward, Steve Easter, Kelvin Richards and Richard Hennessey (HIWWT), for undertaking a long and sometimes very muddy transect at the re-introduction sites. We now have four years of data to establish a great baseline against which we can measure the success of the project in future years.

**We remain determined to see the Marsh Fritillary flying over north-east Hampshire again!**

*Clive Wood and Dr Andy Barker*



## Swallowtails at Strumpshaw



Many branch members will have travelled to Norfolk to see Swallowtails, our largest and most spectacular butterfly species. The RSPB's Strumpshaw Fen has always been a popular site and close to the entrance at the end of a long lane is Marsh Cottage. Here for many years Dr. Martin George and his wife have, the moment the first Swallowtail was seen, placed a notice at the path end of their long front garden border. It invites anyone, especially photographers, to walk the whole length of the border, right up to their front door, in order to get close views of Swallowtails. For that purpose of attracting them in from the nearby Fen they have planted a mix of nectar sources, especially dames' violet and sweet William.

Martin George died on 5th June 2016 and there were very positive obituaries in both his local *East Anglian Daily Press* and the *Suffolk East Anglian Daily Times*. Each piece included a Swallowtail photo taken in his garden.

He was one of the leading Broadland authorities, often consulted by the media even after he retired. For many years he was the Nature Conservancy's regional officer in East Anglia, the person who first proposed Strumpshaw Fen as a nature reserve and author of 'The Land Use, Ecology and Nature Conservation of Broadland', being awarded an OBE for his services to conservation. Whenever I went he was always ready to have a chat and told me of some of the problems resulting from their generous offer: people knocking on the door and asking for a cup of tea and a family having a picnic in their nearby orchard. However, there were some benefits. One day he got talking to a visitor from Northamptonshire and revealed that he had never seen a Purple Emperor. He was given very detailed instructions about a good site and he and his wife subsequently saw them there, including a female laying eggs.

I am enormously indebted to Martin George and his wife for their generous offer and some of my best Swallowtail photos have been taken along that front border. I had a chat with Mrs. George after his death – she was in the reserve meadow, looking at dragonflies – and I got the distinct impression that, as long as the family remained at Marsh Cottage, that wonderful offer would be continued.

*Richard Stewart*



*Swallowtails - Rosemary Powell*



# Butterfly Miscellany

## Newsletters of yesteryear

This is the 101st edition of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch newsletter. Having notched up a century of editions with the spring newsletter, I thought it might be interesting to cast an eye over some of the earlier bulletins and to pick out some of the highlights from more than 30 years ago.



*Newsletters down the years: Issue No.1 from March 1982 is top-left*

The publication of the first edition took place in March 1982. Comprising four A4 type-written pages, the newsletter was photocopied, single sided, and stapled together and posted out to the Branch's 25 members. The first newsletter editor and branch organiser was Matthew Oates. He adopted the Purple Hairstreak as the branch emblem, placing it in the top right corner of the cover page. Inside, there followed a one-page feature piece on the habits and ecology of the Purple Hairstreak.

In fact, Matthew was the sole contributor to the first publication, typing all four pages. Running to one-and-a-half sides, his second article was entitled 'Down the Garden Path' – a gardening for butterflies feature including practical hints and tips based upon experiences in his own garden with lists of plants and the butterfly species they attract. Matthew had recorded 23 species in his garden. On the last page, five field meetings were advertised, the first organised for branch members. Visits were announced to Noar Hill, in May and in August, to Witley Common near Godalming, Stockbridge Down and to Pamber Forest and Silchester Common. Some perennial favourites there!

In 1982 a total of four newsletters were issued, and it was promised that as soon as branch membership reached 50 the photocopied format would be replaced by printed copies!

The newsletter blossomed as branch membership increased and by No.15, in April 1986, filled 12 sides of A4. The quality of the typing and photocopying improved and Ray Tye had taken over as editor. As today, content included notification of work parties and field meetings, and other events arranged by the branch, but less parochial articles included 'Butterfly Conservation in the USA', 'Butterfly Photography', and recipes – which in those far off days, long before political correctness, was a designated feature of the 'Women's Page'. Tim Bernhard's butterfly drawings added a pictorial dimension, 'Readers' letters' were soon a regular feature and lovers of Lepidoptera-based crossword puzzles had a field day.

As a tribute to those pioneering editions and to tax the brain cells of the present readership, I'm republishing the 'Mainly Butterfly Crossword' from the January 1986 newsletter – read on.

Issue number 16, published in September 1986, saw the first appearance of the familiar A5 format, with this edition running to 16 pages. Over time the newsletter expanded, totalling 24 pages for the first time in issue no.31, September 1991, and increasing in extent to 32 pages from April 2004 in no.69. Initially outputting four editions a year, from 1987 to 2012 the newsletter was published three times a year and now we have a spring and an autumn publication.

Although black and white photographic images were introduced in 2009, Newsletter 90 in April 2011 was the first to feature a butterfly photograph on the front cover. Colour was introduced, but only for the front cover, in 2013, and the newsletter moved to full colour throughout in 2014 with edition number 97.

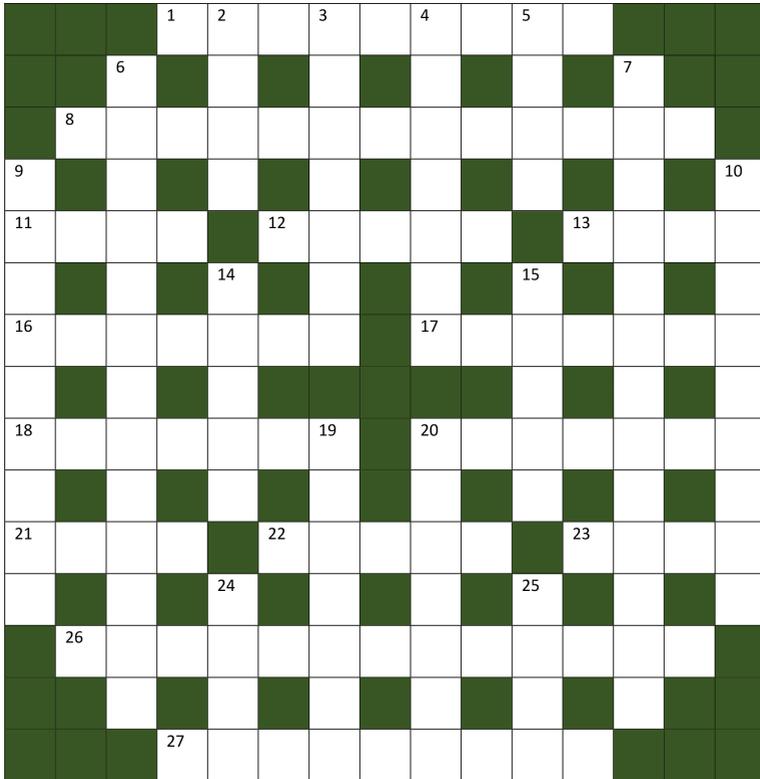
*Kevin Freeborn, Newsletter editor*

# A Mainly Butterfly Crossword

Courtesy of newsletter issue no. 14, January 1986

Take a picture of your completed puzzle and email the photo to [butterflywalks@gmail.com](mailto:butterflywalks@gmail.com)

The first correct entry wins a copy of *Hampshire and Isle of Wight Butterfly Walks*.



## Clues Across

- 1 Change how we do it and find a butterfly (4, 5)
- 8 Down and sad? This little beauty may cheer you up (9, 4)
- 11 The start of intoxication (4)
- 12 Parasites will set 'im back (5)
- 13 Raps back in the ring (4)
- 16 Ale in hers could be one of their cures (7)
- 17 Dazzling old car (7)
- 18 He walks or talks at length (7)
- 20 Shoe cleaner on the threshold (4)
- 21 Drawback for local politicians (4)
- 22 Expand into a bigwig (5)
- 23 Probe and in it find a kidney for example (4)
- 26 Well! You coddle this into an occasional summer visitor (7, 6)
- 27 Did plaice swim scientifically in a white bath? (9)

## Clues Down

- 2 Look sexy in a dog lead? (4)
- 3 Ash laid in a flower bed (7)
- 4 Assistants (7)
- 5 Commonly underground in London (4)
- 6 Swahili dreamt perhaps of the beauties (5, 8)
- 7 Re-pulp more per shift to become a high flyer (6, 7)
- 9 Intellectual to the nth degree finds a rare fritillary (4, 5)
- 10 Most brine turns yellow in the air (9)
- 14 The country is in a real mess (5)
- 15 Nothing in envy for a diplomat (5)
- 19 Harsh treatment if you draw ale badly (3, 4)
- 20 Held up? Here indeed lay the answer (7)
- 24 It always comes after the larva (4)
- 25 Smart lad! (4)

# Supporting Butterfly Conservation

As you may already know we work with **Give as you Live** to raise donations when our supporters shop online. It has proven a really useful fundraising tool and we are hoping to encourage as many people as possible to sign up to help raise extra funds for Butterfly Conservation.

If you haven't heard of Give as you Live, it is a way for supporters to raise money for charities whilst shopping without costing them any extra.

Using Give as you Live is really simple:

- Visit [www.giveasyoulive.com/join/butterflyconservation](http://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/butterflyconservation) and sign up to support us
- Choose which retailer you want to shop with on Give as you Live, and click "shop now"
- Start raising money for Butterfly Conservation for free!

If you are using a tablet or phone you can download the **Give As You Live app** or if you are using a computer you can download the **Give as you Live Toolbar** to make it even easier.

*Becky Miners, Butterfly Conservation*

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A percentage of every pound you spend online will be donated to us when you shop via:

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Give as you Live®



**EUROPEAN  
INTERESTS GROUP**

Butterfly Conservation's European Interests Group (EIG) now has over 400 members and celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. The organisation has worked with a number of local partners in many countries of continental Europe undertaking surveys for rare and endangered species of butterfly. Whether it is the Odd Spot Blue (*T. taygetica*) and Dil's Grayling (*P. orestes*) in Greece, the Scarce Fritillary (*E. maturna*) in Italy or several endemic Spanish butterflies, the EIG surveys have helped our collective knowledge. More recently an EIG survey of Europe's most threatened butterfly the Danube Clouded Yellow (*Colias myrmidone*) has helped with the notification of parts of Romania.

The EIG website [www.bc-eig.org.uk](http://www.bc-eig.org.uk) is a very useful source of information on European butterflies with links to most European butterfly websites. There are species lists/recording forms for many European countries and downloadable guides as to where to find butterflies. For France there are regional guides.

Anyone who enjoys seeing butterflies on holiday will find the EIG newsletters a mine of information with trip reports and updates on taxonomy. Back numbers are on the EIG website. Membership of EIG costs £10 per year in addition to the BC subscription. Details and application form on the EIG website.

Further information from Bob Whitmarsh who, as well as being the Branch's webmaster, is the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch's EIG contact person; see p31 for contact details.



*Eastern Orange-Tip  
- Rosemary Powell*



# 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:** Kate Barrett; Email: [kneame@gmail.com](mailto:kneame@gmail.com)

**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](http://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 February! New contributors most welcome.

**The deadline for the spring Newsletter, edition no. 102, is 17 February 2017**

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

While butterflying takes me all over both counties in the summer months, seeking out butterflies and moths closer to home can also be very rewarding. And there's nowhere closer to home than in the garden. Something had been munching through my fuchsia plants and upon closer inspection I found a couple of Elephant Hawk-moth caterpillars, one in the front garden and one out the back. I can certainly see why they are called Elephant Hawk-moths: the caterpillar does indeed very much look like an elephant's trunk, with lovely eye spots to confuse and frighten off predators.

The adult moths fly from May to July and, typically, larvae feed on Rosebay Willow-herb *Epilobium angustifolium*.

**Ashley Whitlock**

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



Butterfly Conservation is a charity registered in England & Wales (254937) and in Scotland (SC039268).  
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*Lepidoptera Tale Piece...*



*...for the full story go to page 32. Elephant Hawk-moth caterpillar – Ashley Whitlock*