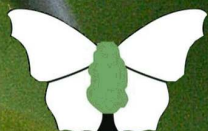


Hairstreak

No 101

Spring 2018



Butterfly
Conservation



Upper Thames
Branch



Chalkhill Blue

1st in UK Butterflies category

Nigel Kitley

*Copy dates are: 1st January for Spring Issue
1st April for Summer Issue
1st August for Autumn Issue*

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Background: Coombe Hill, Bucks

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION

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It doesn't seem all that long since we were enjoying the annual Members' Day event, listening to uplifting presentations and celebrating our achievements. So, that so much more has been achieved (especially at the large number of conservation tasks) since then has been wonderful.

In winter I miss the feeling of life burgeoning all around, rather than dwindling to the current very faint impression of a presence. One counter to sadness at the enfeebled pulse of invertebrate life is to engage in conservation tasks. Part of the elation this gives is the normal positive reaction from being physically active, but there is also the secure knowledge that it's helping ensure the busying thrum of insect wings come next spring.

Between Members' Day and the Christmas 2017 the UTB worked at **14** conservation tasks (and two others were cancelled in poor weather). In contrast, in 2016 we worked at 11 tasks **all year!!** As chair of a conservation society I feel very proud of the marked increase in its conservation work, all down to members' resolve, enthusiasm and effectiveness. A very warm thank you to all involved: those that organised the events and those who helped at each session. All of which effort is documented on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Butterflies.Berkshire.Buckinghamshire.Oxfordshire/>;

and also reflected in the branch's new Instagram account:

https://www.instagram.com/utb_butterfly_conservation/.

Upcoming opportunities to join the happy 'conservation task' crew are displayed at <http://upperthames-butterflies.org.uk/events.html>; with new events being added as they are arranged; so watch out for a similar density of events in 2018. I am aware that we are letting those members in west Berkshire and west Oxfordshire down, by not offering them the same level of opportunity as others. Please be assured I am working on it. Members in north Buckinghamshire will be pleased to hear that we will be making a huge effort to help the Wood White in 2018 – so watch our various online sources for information about ways you can get involved. Other less strenuous than active conservation events are displayed on our Events page too.

(Those opting for the electronic news should be able to go straight to these online pages by simply clicking the links. Those still using the paper version will need to type each address separately into a browser window and press Enter/Go).

We are also continually increasing our recording efforts, but, we are simultaneously losing some long established recorders. For various reasons, people have to drop out and in some cases, with no replacement recorder found, transects (and other standardized recording walks) have to be abandoned. This is very sad, as lengthy series of transect records (from the same site) are immensely valuable in assessing the factors behind the trends of butterfly and moth population sizes.

To try and address this loss of transect walk recorders we are running three identical one-day courses. They will equip folks with the necessary confidence to join a team of transects walkers (among other skills). One will be held in each of the three UTB counties. Dates and details are given on [page 29](#). Please consider enrolling,

even if you only plan to use the free training to record more thoroughly at home; **though we hope to inspire most attendees to step up to more formal recording.**

One such departure of a long-standing contributor has hit us hard. Dennis Dell is leaving and will no longer organise field trips, walk transects (2 sites), or be the Champion for the Purple Emperor. Luckily we have an offer to take on the field trip organiser's role (thanks to Steph), but we still need to hear from volunteers to assist with a transect team working around Quainton, Bucks., and to act for the Purple Emperor. Additionally, we need to replace the champion for the Striped Lychnis moth since the departure of Peter Hall.

It is when someone leaves us that we realise how much they did and that in turn makes me aware of the huge work load that various committee and non-committee members shoulder for us. As you read this news, or next time you visit the website, hear about our joint working with other organisations, join a winter egg hunt, etc., etc., think about the time and energy that so many of our members have given to make your membership valuable and our UTB branch so effective.

I'm afraid I can't leave it there, by thanking everyone for efforts expended. I must, as always, point out that there is so much more to do and ask, as I do whenever I speak, "If we, who care, don't take this on; who will?" Almost every week I realise that there are other jobs (of all types) that we could take on – if only we had a few extra volunteer hours (hint!). 2018 is another year when **we** can once more redouble our achievements and improve the fortunes of butterflies and moths across our three counties. I wish you all the best in 2018 and hope to hear from you, or meet you at a butterfly or moth related event soon.

Lindengate (the charity that grow so many plants for us) are still keen to receive any *clean* 9cm square plant pots (and other materials) that you can provide please.

You can find information about Lindengate at <http://www.lindengate.org.uk>

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www.giveasyoulive.com/join/butterflyconservation



If you are reading this then you already have a healthy interest in butterflies and probably other wildlife too, so the obvious answer is that your observations are badly needed so the state of our wildlife can be monitored and appropriately managed.

But I'd like to offer up some more personal reasons to help motivate you to record if you don't already do so.

It's fun! Getting out and about to try and see more has led me to lovely locations and great walks. I've met nice people too.

It's easy. I can record butterflies in the back garden or go to a Nature reserve and find not just butterflies but other amazing species worth a good look at too.

I learn a lot from investigating, looking things up and from meeting people who know way more than I do.

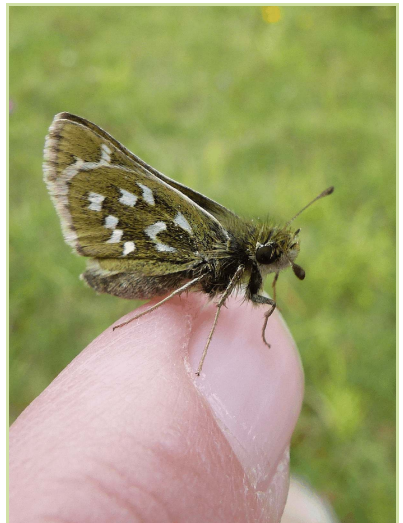
It doesn't take long. Finding a few minutes to put my records on 'i record butterflies' (or onto one of Butterfly Conservation's record sheets) doesn't take long and as I do this I remember the walk, the sunshine, the conversations, the views.

Champion Butterflies. If I find butterfly species that have a champion, then the champion will always be pleased to hear about the sighting and will often be able to tell me more about the butterfly too. I then have the satisfaction of having played a part in looking after a species that needs special care.

It's a voyage of discovery. I never know what I will find. I have walked in places I know very well and found insect species that no one else has ever found or recorded in that location before. It's great sharing the discovery with people who really want to know. Nature reserve wardens and county recorders are interested in sightings of all wildlife and your sightings can easily be put on 'i-record'. It all adds to the understanding of our wildlife and habitats and the effects of climate change and other pressures.



Orange Conch
(*Commophila aenaena*)



Silver-spotted Skipper

A feeling of achievement, to have done something genuinely useful while out enjoying myself, it seems an excellent use of time.

You don't need to be an expert, you just need to be observant. My camera helps too.

There's nothing to lose... except weight! The more I see, the more I walk and the fitter I get; much better than the gym and cheaper too.

I've only been sending in records for just over a year, but I'm so glad I have. So go on, have a go...it's free!

Butterflying in Croatia

David Hastings

In early June 2017 four UTB members joined the 'Butterflies of Croatia' trip run by Naturetrek Ltd. There were ten other participants, as well as the tour leader, a local guide and a driver. This was a three-centre holiday in Dalmatia; two of the hotels were inland, and the third was on the coast. The weather during the week was generally hot and sunny.

After a slightly delayed flight from Heathrow we emerged from the terminal at Zagreb into warm sunshine. On the way to the first hotel we stopped near the village of Goranje Toboriste. The road verge and meadow here didn't look particularly exciting at first glance, but in forty-five minutes there we saw twenty-three butterfly species, including Purple Emperor, Wood White, Sloe Hairstreak, Short-tailed Blue, Marbled White, Heath Fritillary and Reverdin's Blue. Not a bad start!

That evening a makeshift moth trap was set up at the hotel. This produced around 30 species the following morning, of which the most fascinating was a Lappet Moth which pretended to be a leaf, and avoided detection on the wall while in full view.

We visited the Plivice Lakes National Park, which was amazingly beautiful, with a series of turquoise-blue lakes and waterfalls. This wasn't butterfly habitat, but some dragonflies were spotted, including a quartet of Norfolk Hawkers, and some Beautiful Demoiselles.

After lunch, exploration of the flowery meadow (including Rampion Bellflower, Tuberous Pea and Bath Asparagus) behind the hotel in the afternoon was simply amazing! Among the species seen were Tufted Marbled Skipper, Green-underside Blue, Large Copper, Purple-shot Copper, Mazarine Blue, Silver-studded Blue, Short-tailed Blue, Adonis Blue, Meleager's Blue, Marbled Fritillary, Queen of Spain Fritillary,



Short-tailed Blue

Glanville Fritillary, Heath Fritillary, Weaver's Fritillary, Assmann's Fritillary and Pearly Heath.

The next day we stopped at Bjelopolje (a polje is a lowland karstic depression, typical of this region). This again produced a good number of species, with the pick being Black-veined White, Woodland Ringlet and Amanda's Blue. We had a coffee stop on one side of the town of Gracac and lunch south of the town. At the coffee stop I saw a Chestnut Heath. During lunch Grayling, Scarce Swallowtail and Turquoise Blue were seen.

Our final butterfly stop was adjacent to a large concrete bunker as we crossed the Velebit mountain range. Niobe Fritillary and both Ilex and Blue-spot Hairstreaks were feeding in the shade of this structure. More sun-loving was a very obliging Balkan Marbled White.

Our second hotel was on the coast at Starigrad, from where we explored the Paklenica National Park, up to an altitude of 680m. Yet more species were seen here: Lulworth Skipper, Spotted Fritillary, Balkan Green-veined White, Southern White Admiral, Eastern Rock Grayling, Southern Small White, Large Wall Brown, Clouded Apollo, Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper and Mountain Small White. A flowering Small-leaved Lime tree had attracted a large number of hairstreaks, browns and a Scarce Swallowtail. Also seen in the vicinity of the tree were Southern Small Whites and Great Sooty Satyrs.

The next day we continued to explore the Paklenica National Park, this time by walking along a cycle track. The temperature was 30 degrees or more, requiring frequent stops for liquid refreshment. Lavender bushes in gardens proved popular with butterflies, with Scarce Swallowtail, Tufted Marbled Skipper, Small Skipper and Lulworth Skipper the main customers. Also seen were Spotted Fritillary, Clouded Yellow, Berger's Clouded Yellow, Southern Comma and Great Banded Grayling. In the afternoon a pristine Little Tiger Blue was found feeding on its larval food plant, Christ's Thorn.

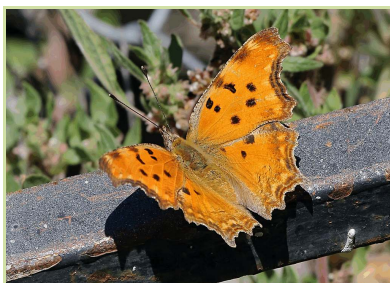
On day six we headed north into the Velebits National Park. The first stop at Dabarska Kosa was at an altitude of around 950m. Common Glider, Silver-washed Fritillary, Niobe Fritillary, Bright-eyed Ringlet and Geranium Argus were seen here, as well as many Owl-flies.



Pearly Heath



Blue-spot Hairstreak

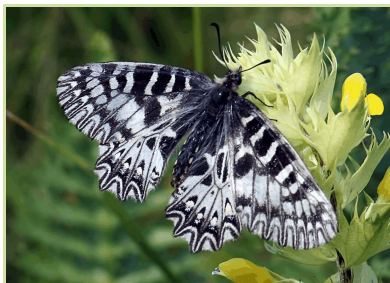


Southern Comma

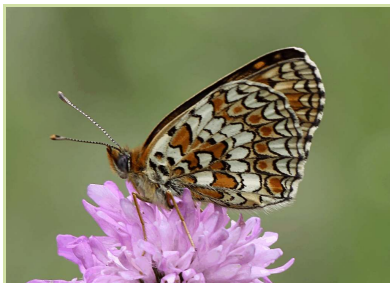
A couple of other stops were made, where we saw Nickerl's Fritillary, False Heath Fritillary, Lesser Spotted Fritillary, Essex Skipper, Large Grizzled Skipper and Safflower Skipper. Our third hotel was in the village of Krasno at an altitude of around 780m.

The last full day was spent exploring the Velebits. We started finding species which had been out in England in May: Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Duke of Burgundy, Comma, Small Tortoiseshell, Speckled Wood and Orange-tip.

At lunchtime in a forest clearing we had Knapweed Fritillary, Painted Lady and Common Swallowtail (and Broad-bodied Chaser dragonflies). In the afternoon, a fantastic flowery meadow near the hotel produced Black-veined White, Southern Festoon, Mazarine Blue and Amanda's Blue. It was fascinating to watch non-intensive farming practices in action; I hadn't seen hay being loaded on to a cart by hand before. Of course, this non-intensive agriculture is the reason for the country's extensive insect fauna.



Southern Festoon



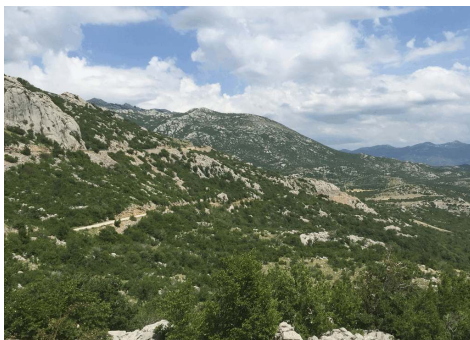
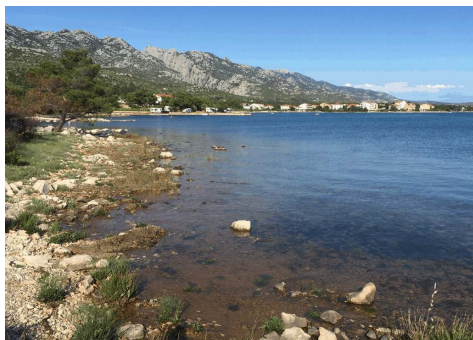
Knapweed Fritillary

By the end of the day we were able to relax over a few drinks and a splendid dinner, while knowing that we would have to leave this wonderful country the next morning.

But the butterflies weren't finished! At a motorway service station on the way to the airport we had Marbled Whites and a second-generation Map. The latter brought the trip totals to 103 species of butterfly and 85 species of macro moths.

Although this was mainly a butterfly trip, other fauna and flora were seen too. The pick of the birds (out of 85 species) were Raven, Bee-eater, Hawfinch, Short-toed Eagle, Long-legged Buzzard, Alpine Chough, Alpine Swift, Golden Oriole, Nightingale, Blue Rock Thrush, Serin, Rock Bunting, Black-headed Bunting, Hoopoe, Subalpine Warbler, Cirl Bunting, Pallid Swift, White Stork, Honey Buzzard and Black Kite. Notable reptiles were European Glass Lizard, Horvath's Rock Lizard, Balkan Green Lizard, Dalmation Wall Lizard and Italian Wall Lizard. At least eleven species of Orchid were found, including Lizard, Burnt-tip, Fragrant, Lesser Butterfly, Bee and Common Twayblade.

I've been on a number of Naturetrek trips in the past, but I think that this one was the best ever: a good group, an excellent leader, good local food and drink and amazing scenery. Thoroughly recommended.



News from the 10km Squares

Jan Haseler

A number of our members have adopted a 10K square, coordinating the recording for the current butterfly atlas, which runs from 2015 to 2019. The report below describes how some of them have been getting on in 2017.

John Lerpiniere helps out in SU37, near Lambourn in Berkshire. He reports that the Small Blues around Lambourn Woodlands have been going from strength to strength, with 55 counted along a stewardship field margin and 19 together on the mud in a gateway. He also saw about 200 specimens of the moth Cinerous Pearl (*Anania fuscalis*), whose larval foodplant is Yellow Rattle.

Jan Haseler looks after SU66 in Berkshire. Burghfield Common is a sprawling village to the south-west of Reading. To the south are heathy commons, conifer plantations and a few areas of broad-leaved woodland. To the north, streams run in deep gulleys through broad-leaved woodland. Scratchface Copse is an area of formerly coppiced woodland on the

north side of the village, approached by a footpath that runs along the bottom of a steep-sided valley, with houses at the top on both sides. Buddleias in the front gardens are good for species such as Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Painted Lady and Large and Small White. The footpath runs next to a big bank of brambles, good for Comma, Red Admiral, Gatekeeper and Speckled Wood. She first found Silver-washed Fritillaries in Scratchface Copse in 2014. In late June this year, she was delighted to see a White Admiral on bramble close to the woodland edge. Holly Blue and Purple Hairstreak are two more of the woodland edge species. On the steep eastern side of the valley is a big patch of flowery grassland, with Knapweed and



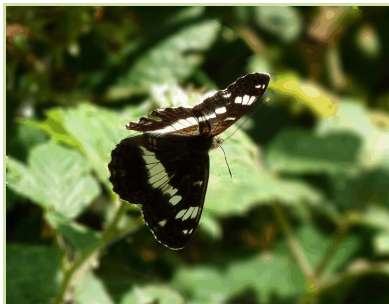
Cinerous Pearl (*Anania fuscalis*)
Dave Wilton

Common Bird's-foot-trefoil. The grass could do with the occasional cut, but it is still good for Common Blue, Brown Argus, Large, Small and Essex Skipper, Meadow Brown and Ringlet. So far 21 different species have been recorded at the site – not bad for a village-edge location. BBOWT's Decoy Heath reserve is also in SU66. John Lerpiniere reports that in a typical year, there might be a White Admiral and the occasional Silver-washed Fritillary, but this year 3 to 4 White Admirals were present for a while, together with up to 7 Silver-washed Fritillaries.

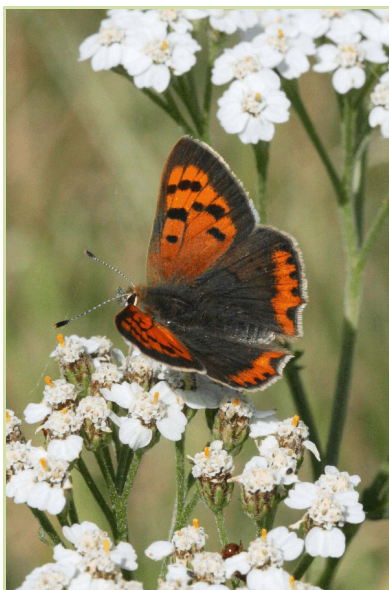
Ian Esland helps with the part of SU67 which lies to the north of the Thames in South Oxfordshire. On 14 July, he was delighted to record 14 species of butterfly in the churchyard of St Johns, Whitchurch Hill, including 6 Marbled Whites, a species that he had not seen there before. Other butterflies in the churchyard that day included Small and Essex Skipper, Small Copper, Common Blue, Holly Blue, Brown Argus, 17 Gatekeepers and 14 Meadow Browns.

Stephanie Brown looks after SU77, which lies to the north-east of Reading. She reports that the summer of 2017 seems to have been one of mixed fortunes for our Berkshire butterflies. Those normally seen in large numbers like Large and Small White were relatively low in number this year. Equally disappointing was seeing fewer blues, skippers, Peacocks and Small Tortoiseshells than in the past two years. But there were also some highlights. During one day in June she counted at least 200 to 300 Meadow Browns in Charvil Meadows. There may have been as many as 1000 over the three flower meadows and a Small Copper was seen there as well. Stephanie saw another Small Copper in October in an overgrown area near the railway embankment in Charvil Country Park. Red Admirals also seemed plentiful and not just over the summer period: a few were still on the wing in early November. Small Heath is a good sighting for this part of Berkshire, so Stephanie was very pleased to see 4 specimens this year – 1 at Lands End Lane and 3 together just below the railway track in a scrubby bit of ground in Sheeplands Farm near Hare Hatch.

Paul Bowyer looks after SU98, which lies to the north of Slough in Bucks. He



White Admiral
David Ferguson



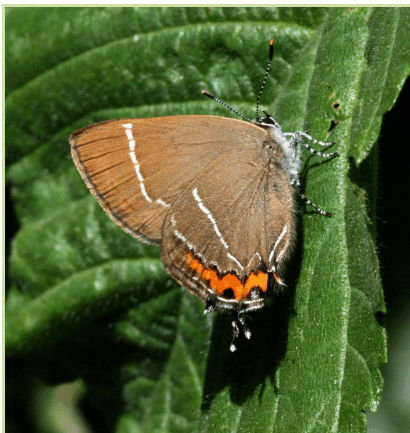
Small Copper
David Dennis

reports that Small Copper has reappeared in quite a few tetrads in his square, including in the Hedgerley area, on Flackwell Heath Golf course and in the Wooburn Park area. He has also started to look at SU97, one of our unadopted 10K squares, and reports that there are some good butterfly walks to be had along the eastern part of the Jubilee River and some of the woods which surround Windsor Great Park.

Brenda Mobbs looks after SU99, which lies between Amersham and Beaconsfield in Buckinghamshire. She had two personal “firsts” for the 10km square this year and both happened in July. She saw a White-letter Hairstreak in a wood managed by the Forestry Commission. When she reported it to the Forestry Commission, they said that they had been planting elms in an adjoining wood but not in that one. She also saw a Purple Emperor in a wood near her home. She has walked in that wood countless times, but this year she was lucky. Otherwise it was a year of the usual suspects in similar numbers to the previous year.

TQ07/8/9 are on the far south-eastern fringe of the Upper Thames region. Wendy Wilson and Derek Haynes shared the Buckinghamshire parts of these three squares this year (the first involvement for Derek), and overall had what they considered to be a most productive year. They discovered 13 species not recorded in tetrads in the area in the 2005-14 Atlas (5 of which were discovered in more than one tetrad), plus more than 60 records of species not previously recorded in tetrads during the current monitoring period. Derek concentrated on the areas in the south of the area, including Black Park, Langley Country Park and Denham Country Park, records for which were sent to and gratefully received by the Parks Team themselves. Wendy had great success in the north of the region, including a new White-letter Hairstreak site. A wholeheartedly enjoyable and rewarding season of recording all round, and they are now both eagerly awaiting the opportunity to discover (at least some of the) ‘missing species’ in 2018 (sometimes, even the likes of Orange-tips and Small Whites seem to avoid detection!). If you are thinking about getting involved... then go for it: honestly, you won't regret it!

We have a number of 10K squares across the three counties, particularly in the north and west of the region, where we are looking for one or more volunteers to help coordinate recording. Figure 1 below shows whether squares are already adopted, need additional help or are unassigned. If you think you could help, please contact Jan Haseler. (Tel: 0118 9414750, email jan.haseler@btinternet.com).



White-letter Hairstreak
David Dennis

			SP45				SP85	SP95	
		SP34	SP44	SP54	SP64	SP74	SP84	SP94	
		SP33							
	SP23	C	SP43	SP53	SP63	SP73	SP83	SP93	
	SP22	SP32	SP42	SP52	SP62	SP72	SP82	SP92	
			C		?	?	?	?	
	SP21	SP31	SP41	SP51	SP61	SP71	SP81	SP91	TL01
		C	C	C	C			?	
	SP20	SP30	SP40	SP50	SP60	SP70	SP80	SP90	TL00
	C		C	C	C		C	C	?
	SU29	SU39	SU49	SU59	SU69	SU79	SU89	SU99	TQ09
	C	C	C		C	C	C	C	C
	SU28	SU38	SU48	SU58	SU68	SU78	SU88	SU98	TQ08
	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
	SU27	SU37	SU47	SU57	SU67	SU77	SU87	SU97	TQ07
				C	C	C	C	?	C
		SU36	SU46	SU56	SU66	SU76	SU86	SU96	
		C	?	C	C	C	C		
		SU35							

Key



10K Champion
In place



More help wanted



Vacant square

Members' Day, 28 October 2017, Amersham, Bucks

Marion Gillie

Around 95 members attended Member's Day, this year hosted by Buckinghamshire. The only disappointment was that David Wilding, who was due to talk about Butterflies and Moths of Otmoor, couldn't be with us due to ill health. Valiantly though, Nick Bowles, our branch chair, stepped into the breach, and simply expanded his AGM address. There had been some hope that Jim Asher would have given a talk to fill the slot, but he was effectively filibustered by Nick!

Our traditional review of how moths and butterflies have fared in 2017 began with **Jan Haseler** reminding us that we'd had an exceptionally dry winter, the warmest March in 100 years, storms in July, a cool wet summer and mild autumn. The impact on moths has been earlier flight times and an unusual second generation for many species, e.g. the Small Emerald. Moth trappers have concluded that overall 2017 has been a good year for moths, and whilst there have been casualties a number of rare migrants are becoming more common in our region.



Small Emerald
David Ferguson

Nick Bowles' review of butterflies confirmed that the weather conditions resulted in a mixed picture. Species that fared well included Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell and Comma, those doing less well included Grizzled Skipper, Green Hairstreak and Ringlet, while those unaffected included Chalkhill Blue and Brown Hairstreak. However, whilst sightings of some species were down overall, they were seen in good numbers at certain sites (e.g. the Dark Green Fritillary at Aston Rowant) and the Holly Blue did well in the spring but not in the autumn. On a positive note, the White-letter Hairstreak (which has not been doing well) has had a good year this year and the Adonis Blue's second brood was the best record since 2006.

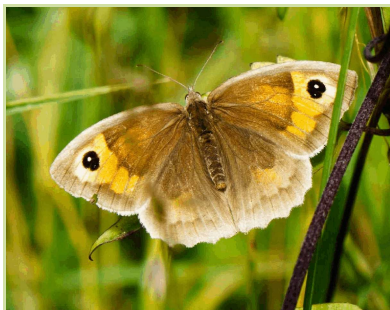


Small Tortoiseshell
Colin Mather

Steve Wheatley, BC's South East Regional Officer, gave a progress report of the Regional Action Plan. After consultation with Branches in the SE region, six species were identified as top priority for conservation, and priority landscapes across the region were identified as prime sites for conservation effort for these species. The resulting landscape maps are used to influence organisations in each key location

and to raise the profile of these butterflies. Organisations we hope to influence include the Wildlife Trusts, The National Trust, Forestry Commission, RSPB, key land owners and fund providers like the Heritage Lottery Fund. This enables conservation work to be targeted effectively, drawing on resources from multiple sources. Steve highlighted some important projects that are being managed in our region, including projects along the Chilterns escarpment aimed at enhancing habitat for the Duke of Burgundy; work with The National Trust, RSBP, BBOWT and the Forestry Commission in the Northern Clay Vales promoting conservation work for the Marsh Fritillary, Forester moth and Barberry Carpet moth; and locally we are seeking Heritage Lottery funds for the Five Hairstreak project.

Tony Gillie followed with news of our own Holtspur Bottom Reserve. In contrasting last year with this he conveyed how many positive changes the reserve has seen. Firstly, our transect recorders report a general increase in the number of butterflies overall, and in particular a huge increase in the numbers of Meadow Brown, and a gradual increase in Small Blues and Chalkhill Blues, our target species. Second, on the Striped Lychnis project, there was a massive increase in the number of the Dark Mullein food plant, but as yet, no great increase in the number of larvae. Tony was clear that these data indicate that our current strategy of site management is working (e.g. a mix of sheep grazing and scything) and added that we have also been able to carry out conservation work on land adjacent to the reserve.



Meadow Brown
Stephen Jones

Charlie Powell, co-founder of Lindengate, spoke about how Lindengate utilises nature and horticulture in support of adult mental wellbeing. Charlie and her colleagues have transformed a five acre derelict allotment site into a thriving centre that each week supports 67 people (known as gardeners) with mental health needs, helped by 180 volunteers and 13 part-time staff. Lindengate is a mix of planned horticulture and gardens alongside natural wildlife areas, which creates a varied landscape in which the gardeners engage in purposeful activity within a supportive social environment. Research into mental health shows clearly that these elements have a big positive impact on recipients' emotional wellbeing, borne out by they themselves talking about their experience at Lindengate. Charlie and her colleagues are passionate about conservation and they are working to increase natural diversity on their site. As well as the wild areas, they now have bee hives, have created a huge pond and are planning a wetland area, all of which helps provide stimulation for their gardeners. Furthermore, they are supporting UTB by growing Dark Mullein, Devil's-bit Scabious, Cowslips, Horseshoe Vetch and disease resistant Elms for our various conservation projects. If you don't know Lindengate, it is to the left of Wyevale Garden Centre on the Aylesbury side of Wendover. It is definitely worth a visit!

Martin Harvey, Berkshire County Moth Recorder, presented **News about Moths and Moths in the News**. Moths in the news was a humorous account of the 'bad press' generally given to moths beginning with a headline (from Australia):

(The extraordinary appendages on the male moth (coremata) are used to produce pheromones to attract females).

He continued with various headlines about plagues of clothes moth, accompanied by photos of anything but 'clothes moths'. He made the serious point that this perpetuates the misunderstandings about moths. Martin then gave some examples of positive news items about moths, first that the National Moth Atlas (for which the National Moth Recording Scheme collects records for BC) will be published next year. The maps show the trends, gains and

losses of different species, and are a data source for important research. For example, a paper in the Journal of Applied Ecology has used the data to look at the impact on biodiversity in proposed fracking sites, and national and global climate change studies have used the data to inform about the risk of climate change. Finally Martin mentioned a fascinating bit of moth news, research into the impact of street lighting. The study shows that when lighting draws moths up from ground level, 23% of these moths are carrying pollen, suggesting that street lighting may be having an impact on pollination if this pollen is being lost to the pollination process.

In his round-up of the day, Nick thanked the many people who had made the day a success and gave a special thanks to Dennis Dell, a long standing member of the Branch, committed Species Champion for the Purple Emperor and, in recent years, organiser of field trips. Dennis is moving to Sheffield to be near family. In recognition for his huge contribution to the Branch, Nick presented Dennis with a one of Richard Lewington's beautiful pictures, but no not a Purple Emperor, Dennis chose the Brown Hairstreak because says Dennis: 'they are much harder to see, you can always see a Purple Emperor'!



Photo of slide by Michael Pitt-Payne



Dennis Dell
Michael Pitt-Payne

Finally, we had the results of the photo competition, and the answers to a fiendishly difficult quiz compiled by Peter Cuss. For example, can you unravel the following anagrams to reveal the butterfly? “Operating”, “The saw mill”, “Male bulls”, or “The wild bream”? Or do you know what the modern names are for the butterflies that were once called Prince of Orange, Bedford Blue, Wood Blue, Arion, or Bramble fly? The answers can be found on page 30.



Michael Pitt-Payne

Thank you very much to everyone who brought food in many and various forms for Members' Day at Amersham. It would be impossible to feed the unknown numbers who arrive on the day if these contributions did not appear. Particularly, very many thanks to all the helpers in the kitchen. With many thanks again to everyone who helped in any way towards the food. Your help will be needed next year!

Gillian Oldfield

2017 UTB Photo Competition Report

Peter Thompson

After a string of pretty miserable summers for butterflies, I'm sure I wasn't alone in hoping for better things in 2017; and our hopes were fulfilled, with good numbers of a wide range of species being reported, especially in the early summer. Whether this would translate into a good number of entries to the Photographic Competition raised nagging doubts until around 9:30 on 28th October at Amersham, when the entries started pouring in! By 10:30 we had a pile of 139 photos, from 24 different photographers, and by the end of another excellent lunch at 2:00 we had 66 votes to count. Winning margins in several categories were very tight, keeping the election officers on their toes! This probably reflected the high quality of entries overall; I for one found it very difficult to choose winners.

We had kept the same categories as 2016, so this was the second opportunity for our Newer Entrants (not previously entered more than twice before), and we had a very strong response from five photographers, who between them entered 21 images. There were some excellent pictures entered, and I suspect we will be seeing more from these competitors in years to come. All entrants received votes, showing the high quality of entries. As we were to see repeatedly that afternoon, this was a very closely fought section, and two entrants tied for second place: Colin Tyler for '99, 100, coming ready or not', and Stephen Jones' 'Marbled White', but clear winner with 13 votes was Paul Lund with his excellent 'Wood White in Flight', not only a stunning image, but also a rare species to boot.

Not surprisingly, the UK Butterflies section was the largest with 47 entrants, and was even more tightly fought, with three different images receiving eight votes each. Mike Wilkins, a previous overall winner, with his '2 Small Coppers' was equal second with Nigel Kitley's 'Pearl Bordered Fritillary', but were both bested by Nigel's own 'Chalkhill Blue', on a casting vote.

The Overseas Butterflies section was disappointingly rather sparse, but quality again was excellent. Whether in future years possession of a blue passport will help get the numbers up we can only speculate. Tied for second were David Dennis with his '2 Desert Orange Tips', and Chris Sayers' 'White Peacock (Costa Rica)', but with 16 votes, Tony Croft was clear winner, with 'Leopard Lacewing'.

The Moths section was less stressful to adjudicate, as Wendy Wilson's 'Forester Moth' narrowly edged Sue Taylor's 'Mother Shipton' into third place, but clear winner was Chris Woodrow with 'Lime Hawk Moths Mating'.

Caterpillars represented all Immature Stage entries this year. Mick Jones was third with 'Pale Tussock', bested by Chris Sayers' 'Privet Hawkmoth', but Mick got his own back on Chris by winning with his 'Vapourer'.

The Digital Alteration category attracted slightly more entries this year; I suspect that people are still trying to get their heads around the concept (I still have a cunning plan for this, but that will have to wait for another year). Anyway, plenty of lateral thinking was shown in the entries: third was Sue Taylor with 'Wild Times in the Chilterns', second was Colin Mather's 'Marbled White', but for the second year

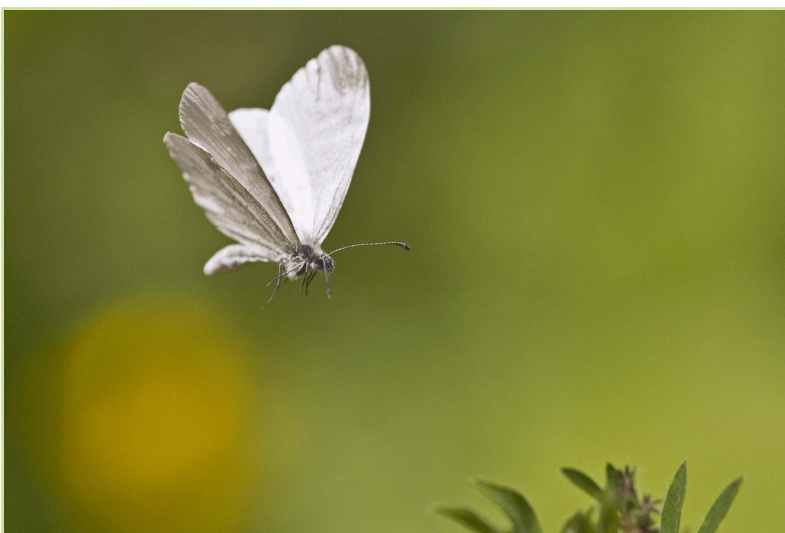
running, our excellent Chairman Nick Bowles won with his 'Arty' image, despite his philosophical objections to the entire concept!

This year's Previous Winners contenders were Jim Asher, David Hastings, Ben Kiteley, and Andrew Cornick, all of whom put together another excellent set of images and our thanks go to each of them for a wonderful display. 18 of their 24 photos received votes and there was again a tie for second place, this year between Jim's 'Janetta Themis Forester (*Euphaedra janetta*)' (yes I could have pronounced it properly Jim, if I'd remembered my reading glasses) and Ben's 'Large Copper'. But David Hastings' 'Large Wall Brown' won first prize by a substantial margin.

In the Members' Competition, again voting was close, but the superb 'Wood White' in flight of Paul Lund beat both Sue Taylor and Nigel Kiteley, again on a casting vote.

A splendid show all round, with extremely high quality images, in large numbers. Well done all entrants, and I hope you can continue with another great show in 2018.

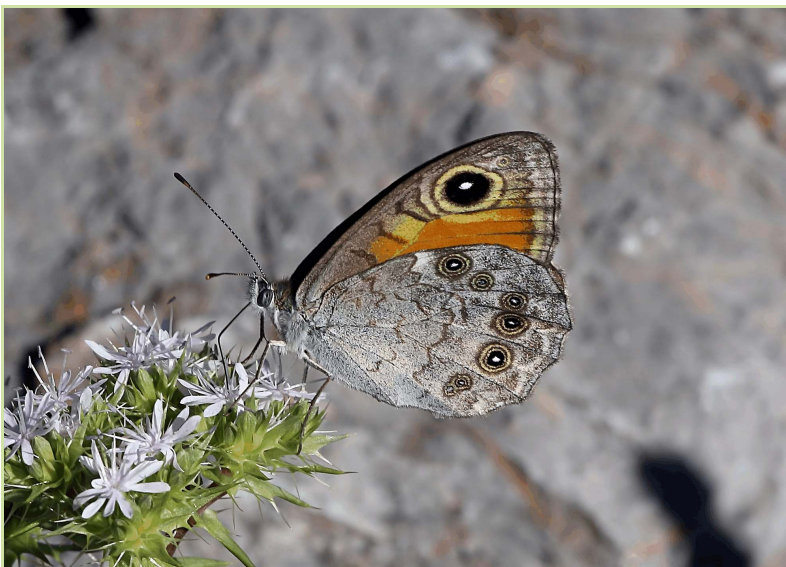
While it is wonderful to administer the competition, it means we miss some of the Members Day talks. If anyone would like to be involved next year, people are **needed to help**. Please let us know before the day.



Wood White

Paul Lund

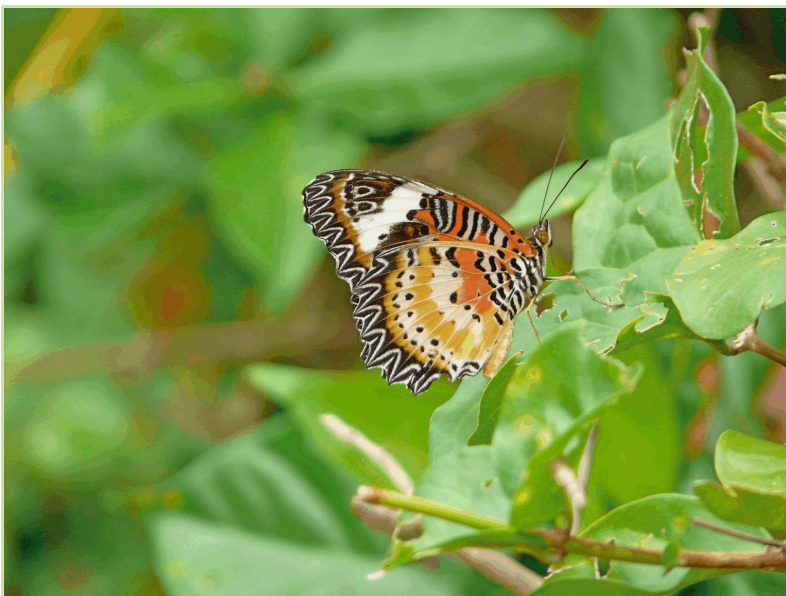
1st in New Entrants category
Overall winner



Large Wall Brown

1st in Previous Winners category

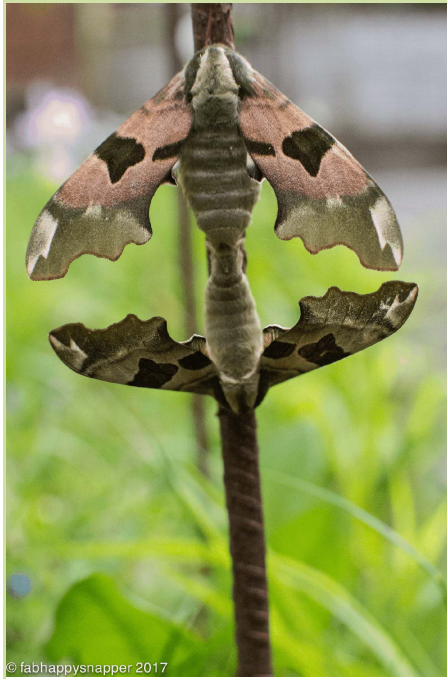
David Hastings



Leopard Lacewing

1st in Overseas category

Tony Croft



© fabhappysnapper 2017

Lime Hawks Chris Woodrow
1st in Moths category



Valezina Silver-washed Fritillary
1st in Digital Alteration category

Nick Bowles

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

28th October 2017 at 2.10pm

Amersham Community Centre, Chiltern Avenue, Amersham, Bucks HP6 5AH

Apologies were received from Committee Members David Roy & Richard Soulsby as well as Chris Allen, Frank Banyard, Maureen Cross, Ched George, Rikki Harrington, Roger Kemp, Vikki Rose, Emma Turnbull & Guy Thomas.

The **Previous Minutes** were available to all at the meeting. They were accepted (proposed by Tony Gillie, seconded by Andrea Polden and carried unanimously) and there were no **Matters Arising**.

Chairman's Report: Nick started proceedings by saying how proud he was to be associated with such a wonderful group of people. Public engagement during the year had included our participation in Beaconsfield Now, Countryfile Live at Blenheim Palace (involving no less than 25 branch members), Lindengate's Spring & Autumn Fayres, the Milton Keynes Festival of Nature, My Wild Chilterns, National Moth Night, the Royal Berkshire Show, Oxford Goes Wild, Wild Woods Day and more, some of them held over several days. Membership continued to increase and our Facebook and Twitter accounts and Website were being viewed more and more frequently.



Brush cutting at Holtspur
Tony Gillie



Holtspur work party
Tony Gillie

We ran lots of field trips and many conservation work parties (currently 30 planned for this coming winter). We welcomed Nick Board as our new Species Champion for the Wood White but there was still a vacancy for someone to cover the Striped Lychnis moth. Lindengate had been busy growing Devil's-bit Scabious, Horseshoe Vetch, Dark Mullein, Cowslip and Elm for our various projects. Emma Turnbull had taken on the garden and churchyard surveys and was looking forward to receiving data. Partnerships with which we had major input during the year included the Greatmoor Incinerator, HS2, East-West Rail, Network Rail and the Highways Agency. We had at last been successful in persuading the Highways Agency to re-fence the

M40 Compensation Area on the edge of Bernwood Forest, which is so important for the Black Hairstreak, although the downside had been the termination of public access. Areas where we needed help included surveys (not only with walking transects but also an assistant for co-ordinator Mike Wilkins who is also responsible for the wider countryside scheme), field trips (because Dennis Dell will be leaving our area soon) and conservation work parties.

Grateful thanks were passed on to everyone who gets involved in branch activities, from things like surveying, conservation work and running our social media through to help with organising events such as Members' Day (especially to Gillian Oldfield and her team who were responsible for the refreshments). Most of all, though, Nick wanted to thank those members who were determined to do just a little bit more next year!

During the course of his talk Nick had introduced three people from the audience, Helen de Hartog (a volunteer from Bicester), Heather Kazar (an Oxford University student in need of transport to events) & Dennis Dell (our departing field trips organiser) who each stood and said a few words to the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Chris began his report by drawing everyone's attention to the accounts on the back of the day's programme. In the year 2016-17 our finances continued to show a healthy position with funds attributable to the Branch increasing by £4,471.06 but expenditure increasing by only £584.87, resulting in an excess of income over expenditure of £979.55 as opposed to the deficit we had carried for the previous two financial years. Head Office is continually urging Branches not to hold large cash balances as "designated funds" because this affects their ability to obtain money from grant-making bodies for important projects. To this end, in the year under review we made a donation of £4,000 to the Chiltern Duke Project and in the accounts this sum is reflected in expenditure under donations/subs. The increase in incoming donations was due mainly to the generosity of members who had received their copy of the new Branch Butterfly Atlas which had been produced at the end of the previous financial year.

Despite increasing Branch membership, the cost of the Newsletter decreased by £393.15 due to more members opting for the electronic version rather than a hard copy. Costs have also been contained thanks to Head Office continuing to print and dispatch our Newsletters using franked mail rather than stamps. Other expenditure during the year included the cost of maintenance work at Holtspur Bottom (£1,035 to Chiltern Rangers), the purchase of moth trapping equipment (£802.66, although mostly covered by a Grant of £750 from the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment) as well as the purchase of two scythes and sundry equipment for the brush-cutter (£359.64). The Other Projects figure of £748.33 relates to the cost of purchasing disease-resistant elms, while the sum of £1,220 under Other Expenditure was for fees received for survey work not done by us but repaid to the correct recipient. So, for the year under review we achieved a cash balance of £13,165.04 at the end of the period.

Paul Huckle proposed that the accounts be accepted. This was seconded by Roger Dobbs and carried unanimously.

Election of Officers: Under our rotational system Nick Bowles, Jan Haseler, Stuart

Hodges and Chris Woodrow were standing down from the Committee and seeking re-election. Jim Asher proposed that this be done as a block vote (seconded by Gillian Taylor) and it was carried unanimously. The Committee for 2018 then comprised the following 12 members:

Nick Bowles (Chairman)	Jan Haseler	Tony Gillie
Grahame Hawker (Vice-chair)	Peter Cuss	Brenda Mobbs
Chris Woodrow (Treasurer)	David Roy	Richard Soulsby
Dave Wilton (Secretary)	Stuart Hodges	Lloyd Garvey

Grahame Hawker, Richard Soulsby & Dave Wilton will be due to stand down in rotation at the AGM in October 2018.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.10pm.

Field Meeting Reports

Aston Upthorpe 21 May 2017

Gerry and Penny Kendall

Eleven of us gathered at the Aston Upthorpe grain drier for the traditional walk to look for Spring Butterflies. The target species were the two Spring Skippers – Dingy and Grizzled – with Green Hairstreak. We also half expected to see Small Blue. Adonis Blue was a possibility, but the season wasn't good enough to make this a probable, even if this handsome butterfly was increasing its range in the way that some of us were optimistically hoping. Duke of Burgundy, alas, seems lost to the site.

For once, the weather seemed more on our side than against: forecast dry, temperatures in the high teens, reasonable sunny spells and 10 mph winds. So not ideal, but much better than last week!

Local knowledge is very helpful and we started our serious looking on a chalk bank where some hawthorn bushes offered traditionally favoured perching places for the Green Hairstreak. True to form we located a couple within a few minutes.

Cheered by some early success we continued to another stretch of chalk grassland, this time nicely sheltered. Transect walkers had reported all three of our main targets within the last week. Alas, not today. There were large areas of wild strawberry in flower. This being the food plant of Grizzled Skipper, why weren't they there in force, sipping the nectar and laying their eggs? But there's nowt so obstinate as *Pyrgus malvae* as country folk say. And to prove the truth of the adage, no sooner had we left the strawberry patch when the Grizzled Skipper appeared, in fact two of them. While our attention was diverted one of the party had a brief glimpse of a probable Dingy Skipper, but nobody else saw it.

As well as the butterflies there were several moths. Cinnabar was there in large

numbers and there was an early Silver Y. Together with the usual grass moths they provided quite a distraction from the butterflies.

One of the advantages of an experienced group is that not much goes unnoticed. A Small Blue was identified just before Juniper Valley. It was during a cloudy period and the poor little thing was not inclined to fly which suited our group down to the ground. Everyone got a good look and most of the photographers had a chance too.

Common Blue also appeared in good numbers, but no hint of an Adonis. However, as we continued into Juniper Valley a sure-'nuff Dingy Skipper was flushed and settled long enough to be generally admired. And to prove it wasn't a fluke we did it again a couple of minutes later. Grizzled skippers were also about.

Our route continued up to the Fairmile. A path used to run parallel to the main track but sheltered by a bank. It is now, alas, fenced off. But if you climbed the bank and peered on the sheltered side Small Blues were to be found reasonably easily.

All in all we had a good day. The three main target species and Small Blue were conclusively "bagged" and we had a conservative total of a dozen species. "Conservative" because we also had candidates for Orange-tip, Holly Blue and Comma which were not seen clearly enough to make the list.

Butterfly list

Dingy Skipper, Grizzled Skipper, Brimstone, Large White, Green-veined White, Green Hairstreak, Small Copper, Small Blue, Common Blue, Brown Argus, Peacock, Speckled Wood, Small Heath.

Kimble Rifle Range, Bucks, 13 August 2017

Nick Bowles

A group of ten set off from the car park on Longdown Rd in the hope (rather than expectation) of seeing the Silver-spotted Skipper. We took the bridleway alongside Grangelands (BBOWT) until the grassland part of Pulpit Hill (NT). Here we quickly picked up common species and some Chalkhill Blues and stopped briefly to examine the Musk Orchids. Then we entered the Rifle Range (BBOWT) and went fairly quickly to the area of very short turf when one of the party spotted a Clouded Yellow. On our way some others saw our first Silver-spotted Skipper and eventually we saw a minimum of eleven. This was very pleasing and even better, we added second brood Dingy Skipper and Small Blue so that our eventual tally was 21 species clearly identified, with a Small/Essex skipper vanishing before it could be confidentially assigned to a species. Day-flying moths included 6-spot Burnet, Shaded Broad-bar, Small Purple and Gold and (Lesser??) Treble Bar

Despite the poor weather in the week before this walk, there were still some relatively large amounts of chalk grassland flowers and quite good numbers of most of the butterfly species we saw.

Field Meetings

For all field trips, even though it is early in the season, it is recommended that arms and legs are covered to protect from insect bites.

Sunday 6th May at 11.00

Homefield Wood, Bockmer End, Bucks

Start of season meeting for early spring butterflies. Meet at the main entrance to the wood [OS map 175, grid ref SU814866].

[Leader and contact: Paul Bowyer 01628 526225](#)

Sunday 13th May at 11.00

Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks

Target species: Duke of Burgundy and other spring species. Steep sloped and rabbit holes. Meet at National Trust car park for Ivinghoe Beacon

OS map 165, SP963159. [Leader and contact: Robin Carr 01296 625734](#)

Saturday 19th May at 10.00

Pitstone Quarry, Bucks

A large, shallow, disused chalk quarry. Mostly easy flat walking, but there is one stile to climb over with a short steep slope after; some scrub and slopes with rabbit holes. Spring butterflies, especially Small Blue, Dingy Skipper and day-flying moths such as Burnet Companion.

Meet at Pitstone Church [OS Map 181, grid ref SP941149].

[Leader and contact Nick Bowles 01442 382276](#)

Sunday 20th May at 11.00

Aston Upthorpe Downs, Oxon

Targets are spring butterflies, including Dingy and Grizzled Skipper, and Green Hairstreak. Steep chalk slopes. From the A417 a mile east of Blewbury, turn south along the narrow lane opposite the turning to Aston Upthorpe village.

Park by the grain dryer half a mile along the lane [OS map 174, grid ref SU550844]. [Leader and contact: Gerry Kendall 01865 245029](#)

Saturday 26th May at 10.30

Lardon Chase, Streatley, Berks

Targeting Adonis Blue and other spring species. Very steep grass slopes. Meet in the main National Trust car park off the A4009 at the top of the hill out of Streatley [OS map 174, grid ref SU583806].

[Leader and contact: Maureen Cross 01491 871239](#)

Saturday 29th May at 2 pm

Finemere Wood, Bucks

A field trip to try and find Black Hairstreak pupae.

Entrance at OS Map 165, grid ref SP720209

[Leader and contact: Stuart Hodges 01296 730217](#)

Thursday 31st May at 2 pm**Yoesden Bank, Bucks**

Target species: Adonis Blue; we also hope to see other spring chalk downland species. Wear appropriate footwear: steep slopes.

Meet in the entrance field by the pumping station in Bottom Road, Radnage.

Parking in field [OS Map 165, grid ref SU789975].

[Leader and contact](#) [Ched George](#) 01494 484493

Saturday 2nd June 11.00**Bradenham, Bucks**

Target species: Small Blue, along with other early summer butterflies. Turn east off the A4010 into Bradenham Wood Lane at the Red Lion pub. After 500 metres, turn left into the small car park [OS map 165, grid ref SU827972].

[Leader and contact:](#) [Brenda Mobbs](#) 01494 712486

Sunday 3rd June at 10.30**Shotover Hill and Brasenose Wood, Oxon**

Meeting organised by the Upper Thames Section of Butterfly Conservation and Shotover Wildlife under the auspices of Oxford Nature Week.

A very interesting habitat consisting of acidic grassland, ancient woodland, and blackthorn scrub. We hope to see the rare Black Hairstreak as well as early summer species. This trip will be led by the Chairman of Shotover Wildlife, Ivan Wright. Meet at Shotover car park, Old Road (east end), Headington, OX3 8TA [OS map 164, grid ref SP564 062]. It is advisable to bring a packed lunch.

[Leader and contact:](#) [Ivan Wright](#) 01865 87442

Saturday 16th June at 10.30**Finemere Wood, Bucks**

Our Black Hairstreak champion leads a walk to see his butterfly.

Meet at the reserve entrance on the Edgcott to Quainton Road.

OS Map 165, grid ref SP720209

[Leader and contact](#) [Stuart Hodges](#) 01296 730217 and 07941 763850

Wednesday Evenings 20/6, 27/6, 4/7 at 7.00 pm**Didcot, Oxon****Wednesday Evenings 11/7, 18/7 at 6.30 pm**

A repeat of last year's fascinating evening walks, exploring what butterflies get up to outside transect hours.

Target species: Marbled White, Small Blue, and other summer butterflies.

Sustrans path on top of disused railway line from Didcot to Upton. Some rough ground but alongside metalled path. Meet at the Village Hall at East Hagbourne. That should catch the height of the Marbled White season. Around

the solstice, butterflies can be in flight until 2100 and perching until 2200. OS Map 174, grid ref SU525883. [Leader and contact:](#) [Karen Saxl](#) 01235 818574

Saturday 23rd June at 10.30**Holtspur Reserve, Bucks**

We hope to see the Small Blue, as well as most of the common summer species. Meet at the Holtspur Bottom reserve entrance in Riding Lane.

OS map 175, grid ref SU918906.

[Leader and contact:](#) [Brenda Mobbs](#) 01494 712486



Vapourer Moth larva

1st in Immature Stages category

Mick Jones

New Members

Brenda Mobbs

Since the last newsletter 120 new members have joined and the membership is now over 1645. The more members we have the more we can achieve as a branch. Please encourage your friends to join Butterfly Conservation either on the website or by leaflet. Please let me know if you would like any membership leaflets to pass on.

A warm welcome to all new members who have joined since the last newsletter was published.

- 34 from Berkshire
- 52 from Buckinghamshire
- 31 from Oxfordshire
- 3 from elsewhere.

All of you are welcome to join field meetings, work parties and attend Members' Day and New Members' Day.

Details of events are found in this newsletter or on our website:

www.upperthames-butterflies.org.uk

A **free** introduction to Butterfly and Moth Identification, Surveying & Recording

It helps land managers to know both which species are breeding on any patch, but how their management affects numbers. So, accurate records you supply can make an enormous difference to efforts to conserve wildlife, locally and nationally. Plus, extra knowledge boosts the enjoyment of any walk, even in your own garden.

Dates

Saturday 17th February 10.00 - 16.00

*Maiden Erlegh Nature Reserve, Lakeside, Earley, Reading, **Berks.** RG6 5QE*

Saturday 3rd March 10.00 - 16.00

SCEEC, Milton Park estate, off the A34, 3 miles north of Didcot, between Sutton Courtenay & Didcot, **Oxon.** OX14 4TE

Saturday 10th March 10.00 - 16.00

Howe Park Wood Education & Visitor centre, H7, Chaffron Way,
Milton Keynes, MK4 3GG

Programme (for each day)

09.45	doors open; tea and coffee available
10.00 –10.10	Welcome and details of the day
10.10 –11.15	Identification of the butterflies of Berks., Bucks. & Oxon.
11.15 –11.35	a quick butterfly i.d. quiz during tea/coffee and biscuits
11.35 –12.30	Separating moths into their families – a start to moth identification and recording.
12.30 –13.00	Transect recording methodology – why and how
13.00 –13.30	lunch (please bring a packed lunch) tea/coffee and biscuits are provided and including a quick moth family quiz
13.30 –14.30	Practice transect walk
14.30 –15.10	Conducting timed count and standardised surveys
15.10 –15.25	tea/coffee and biscuits
15.25 –15.45	Record submission - and how it helps conservation
15.45	closing remarks and departure

If you wish to attend either day please email nick.bowles@ntlworld.com – all places are free and open to members and non-members of UTB/BC; but are subject to availability. Applicants must be able to explain how they will increase their recording after the course. Electronic versions of all presentations can be copied to attendees' memory sticks but are too large to send by email. **Please do not attend without pre-booking.**

Could you help with the tasks listed below?	
Please email nick.bowles@ntlworld.com if you can, thanks.	
Help with meetings	Help with direct conservation
Physical help; e.g putting out chairs, erecting displays	Use hand tools at conservation tasks
Meet and greet people attending meetings	Use power tools at conservation tasks
Help with catering at meetings, e.g pour the tea	Help to store and transport tools
Put together a display to show at meetings	Grow plants for reserves
Write accounts/take photos of meeting	Record butterflies & moths locally
Help direct traffic in parking areas	Run a moth trap & record the catch
Provide facilities for meetings, e.g. rooms, laptops	Travel to record in underrecorded areas
Help with organisation	Survey as part of a team
Maintain a database or spreadsheet	Walk a transect
Lead a walk or invite others to view your moth trap	Organise a team of surveyors
Help to man our stall at fairs and events	Become a 10km square champion
Help to arrange events	Become a species champion
Contribute to our website ,or our Twitter feed, or our Facebook page, or our newsletter	Help with Finance
Help with publicity and promotion	Take the newsletter electronically
Co-ordinate a team of recorders	Arrange a token collection at Waitrose
Join a committee	Organise a fund raising event
	Consider a Legacy to leave money to BC
Please tell us of any additional ideas	

Answers

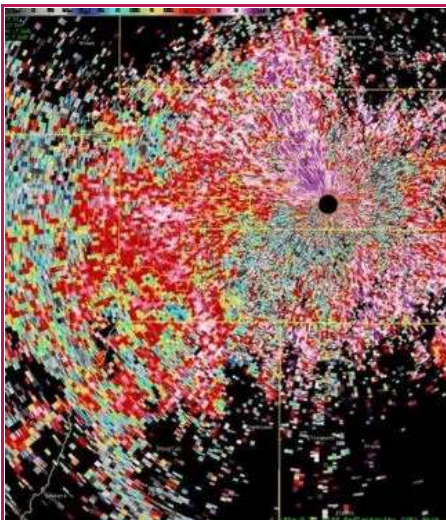
Operating is Orange Tip
 The saw mill is Small White
 Male bulls is Small Blue
 The wild bream is Marbled White
 Prince of Orange is Orange Tip
 Bedford Blue is Small Blue
 Wood Blue is Holly Blue
 Arion is Large Blue
 Bramble Fly is Green Hairstreak



The last task of 2017 took place at Sands Bank, High Wycombe with Chiltern Rangers CIC, who kindly rewarded our volunteer effort with mulled wine, mince pies and bacon butties. It is hoped to reintroduce grazing and to help restore the rich grassland. During the day, much scrub was removed.

There will be an article in the next issue of *Hairstreak* about the work of Chiltern Rangers and their cooperation with our volunteers.

And now for something completely different...



This radar photograph shows a 70 mile wide swarm of Painted Ladies migrating over Denver, Colorado last October. They were moving southwest to northern Mexico and the southwest USA.

In Buckinghamshire, the Bucks Invertebrate Group organise a lot of field trips which include studying butterflies and especially moths. Their list of field trips is available on their web site. <https://sites.google.com/site/bucksinvertebrategroup/Home>

In Berkshire, the Berkshire Moth Group hold regular meetings on the second Thursday of every month. They organise other events as well. Refer to their web site for details. <https://sites.google.com/site/berksmoths/Home>

Upper Thames Branch Website

www.upperthames-butterflies.org.uk

<http://butterfly-conservation.org/288/upper-thames-branch.html>

Have your butterfly sightings and photos posted on the website by sending them to: sightings@upperthames-butterflies.org.uk

Upper Thames Branch Moth Sightings Blog
<http://upperthamesmoths.blogspot.co.uk>

Follow us on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/Butterflies.Berkshire.Buckinghamshire.Oxfordshire>
and Twitter - @UpperThamesBC
and Instagram - utb_butterfly_conservation

Holtspur Bottom Reserve
<http://www.holtspurbottom.info>

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