

# Members' Day & AGM

**Held at Conkers, Rawdon Road, Swadlincote, Leicestershire. DE12 6GA. 30th October 2016**

36 members present.

## Interim Branch Organiser's Report

Adrian thanked Bill Bacon for all his hard work as Chairman over the past few years.

2016 had been a very disappointing year for Butterflies & Moths. Results from The Big Butterfly Count and The State of Nature Report made grim reading. So many species are declining and all this on top of funding cutbacks. Implications on Brexit could make challenging times ahead so we need strong Nature Organisations. Fortunately Butterfly Conservation is doing an excellent job.

Dr. Martin Warren is stepping down as Chief Executive and is being replaced by an interim Chief Executive, Julie Williams, who is currently Deputy Chief Executive.

The East Midlands Branch has no support in a Regional Officer, but we have been given an indication that we will have one at some point in the near future.

Adrian Russell

## Branch Officers' Reports

The full version will be available to view on our website:

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

### TREASURER – John Phillips

The end of year accounts is again in a health position that enabled a large amount of the cash surplus to be available for conservation projects. The following being spent in the year on conservation projects;

- £3,731 on the Grizzled Skipper project in the Nottinghamshire/Leicestershire borders.

With an additional reserved for the following;

- £2,000 being allocated for the ongoing Grizzled Skipper project in the Nottinghamshire/Leicestershire borders from the Designated Funds,
- A further £1,000 allocated for maintenance works for the Grizzled Skipper project in the Nottinghamshire/Leicestershire borders,
- It was decided to allocate £1,000 on Elm trees for Derbyshire.
- £2,500 allocated to conservation projects (Yet to be decided by the committee).

The increase in income is due to two main factors. Firstly as always our main income is from subscriptions which continue to increase with income from subscriptions up 30% on the previous year. Secondly income from sales continues to remain high thanks to the sterling efforts of

Jane Broomhead with total sales at £1,987 and profit margins remain high from the sale of goods at 25%.

Expenditure for general running costs remains low for the operation of the branch limited to printing of newsletters, postage, AGM costs & insurance. Prices are market tested annually to make sure we are continually receiving best value.

### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY – Christine Maughan

My report this year is a little less detailed due to the fact that we are holding our AGM slightly earlier and the annual membership statistics for 2016 provided by Butterfly Conservation are not yet available.

What I can say is that for the organisation as a whole, membership has continued to rise during the year. There has been an 8.6% increase in members nationally. Similarly, since 1 November 2015, recruitment within the East Midlands Branch has again been very positive with a net gain of 59 new households for the period.

The total branch membership at 28 October 2016 was 1017 households (an increase of 6% since 1 November 2015), representing 1376 individuals (an increase of 5%).

These figures are still very encouraging.

### FIELD TRIP ORGANISER – Max Maughan

There were 11 scheduled day trips and one weekend away to the Isle of Wight. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, the latter had to be cancelled at short notice, but a few members still attended and managed to see the target species, Glanville Fritillary.

The total number of people attending all the day trips was 182 with the average attendance being 17. The highest number of people attending a single trip was 37 at Coombs Dale on 14 July.

### SALES & DISPLAY ORGANISER – Jane Broomhead

On the whole sales have been similar to previous years although it seemed to me that some of the events had lower visitors and certainly some had very adverse weather conditions.

The year started with the ever popular Burbage Common Open Day where Richard Jeffery kindly donated some plug plants which made £33. Since then I have done 9 events including the best event sales wise which was once again the RSPB Bird Fair where £589.78 was taken on the one day. This included £41.50 from plant sales mostly donated by Max & Christine from their new garden. The total taken up to the Grantham Canal event on the 9th October is £1840.27. I did the DANES event yesterday which will bring the total to around £2,000.

We were told at the Bird Fair that the Northamptonshire Branch could no longer do Friday & Saturday.

If anyone would like to give me a hand especially for the Bird Fair in August then please let me know.

**WEB MASTER – Simon Jenkins**

The overhaul of the main website has been completed. The work has included three main changes:

- Redesigning the site to a more modern look and making it “responsive”
- Updating the butterfly species pages to include regional distribution maps for all the local species
- Development of blog pages and integration with social media.

**LOWLAND DERBYSHIRE CONSERVATION OFFICER – Jim Steele**

Conservation Officer role consists of four, main elements

- Planning issues
- Projects
- Management Advice
- Events (Trips, Talks), plus more strategic issues such as contributing to the Regional Action Plan review, discussions regarding possible reserve(s), Branch re-unification for county of Derbyshire and discussions regarding the probable creation of Species Action Plans for the Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Action Plan.

**CONSERVATION OFFICER NOTTS/LEICS – Richard Penson**

The management of Leicestershire road verges in the ownership of Leicestershire County Council has improved due to survey work and management recommendations I made in 2016, benefitting many butterfly and day-flying moth species. Ratcher Hill Quarry, near Mansfield holds a regionally significant colony of dingy skippers and also hosts the blackneck moth *Lygephila pastinum* which is scarce in Nottinghamshire. Part of this quarry is still being worked although the whole site is ear-marked for development in the Local Plan.

**RECORDER'S****Richard Rogers – Nottinghamshire**

Richard thanked all the Nottinghamshire recorder's for all their help. At the present time there are only 15 transects in Notts. Richard showed a list of butterfly records for 2014/15. All that he has received so far this year are casual records. The most butterfly seen so far is the Speckled Wood. There are few Small Skipper records which is worrying and he hopes there will be more records in for the Small Heath. All of the Hairstreaks have done poorly. There was 1 record of a Wall Brown. Further lists are available from Richard.

**Leicestershire and Rutland Report 2015/16 –****Richard Jeffrey**

The Wall Brown was recorded for the first time at Altar Stones and Hill Hole Quarry (both near Markfield, NW Leics) in 2015.

The Marbled White was recorded for the first time on Croft Hill Nature Trail in 2015.

The Dingy Skipper 'returned' to New Lount Nature Reserve in 2015, and has been recorded for the first time in Cloud Wood and at Bardon Hill Quarry in 2016.

The White Admiral was seen in Owston Woods in 2016 by Geof and Margaret Adams – the host plant (wild honeysuckle) is still present in large numbers in other local woods (eg Launde Wood), so the WA may still be present in other sites in the area.

**DERBYSHIRE BUTTERFLY & EAST MIDLANDS TRANSECT REPORTS FOR 2016 – Ken & Pat Orpe**

Yet another poor season with a cool spring and a wet summer with only brief hot spells in July and August 2016

Very poor year for the 'Blue' Family in the county. Only 7 records for the Clouded Yellow (in June, August & September 2016). Approx 400 sightings of the Painted Lady (from June to September as in 2015). The Silver Washed Fritillary including the rare female form *Valezina* were seen again at Ticknall Limeyards in 2016. Extra broods of Dingy Skipper, Wall Brown and the Common Blue occurred in the peak District in 2016. Green Hairstreak seen at Toton Sidings again in 2016. Speckled Wood numbers increasing in Autumn 2016. Ringlet numbers exceeded Meadow Brown numbers in 2016. Earliest purple Hairstreak sighting by 10 days in June 2016. Latest sightings during 2016 for the Gatekeeper & common blue.

79 Transects carried out in Derbyshire in 2016 with 300 volunteers. 17 Transects carried out in Nottinghamshire in 2016. 9 Transects carried out in Leicestershire in 2016

**Election Of Officers**

Adrian is standing down as Interim Branch Organiser after the National AGM. He was pleased to announce that his position is to be split (as has been in the past). The Organiser's position is to be taken by Jane Broomhead and the Chairman's position is to be taken by Bill Bacon. Adrian has now decided to stay on the committee as moth recorder for Leicestershire.

In accordance with the branch rules, the three longest serving members stood down and offered themselves for re-election. These were Max Maughan Field Trip Organiser, Christine Maughan Butterfly Report Co-ordinator, Richard Jeffery Recorder for Leicestershire.

Changes to the Committee were proposed by Colin Bowler and seconded by Richard Rogers. Ken announced that there is to be a Moth Recorder for Derbyshire.

**There being no further business the meeting finished 12.10pm. After lunch there were the following talks:-**

Butterfly Conservation Projects in the East Midlands – Jim Steele

150 Years of Butterfly & Moth Recording in Leicestershire & Rutland – Adrian Russell

My Favourite Butterfly Places in Leicestershire – Richard Jeffery.

**This was followed by Member's photographs.**

**The meeting closed at 3.00pm.**