

EAST MIDLANDS BRANCH MEMBERS DAY & AGM 2022

(held on 20 November 2022 at Allestree Club, Allestree, Derby)

PRESENT (44): Jane Broomhead (Branch Organiser), Malcolm Broomhead, Christine Maughan (minutes), Max Maughan, Eliot Taylor, Melanie Penson, Suzanne Halfacre, Gary Atkins, Bill Bacon, Margaret Hobby, Brian Hobby, John Green, Sylvia Green, Willy Lane, Timothy Bell, Melinda Bell, Colin New, Peter Roberts, Richard Jeffery, Mark Searle, Margaret Gibbons, David Gibbons, R Rochford, A Rochford, J Clarke, Ken Orpe, Pat Orpe, Brenda Buckland, John Buckland, Graham Pervin, Paul Goodwin, Felicity Jackson, Michael Fitchew, Paul Townsend, Dot Morson, Barry Morson, Celia Knight, A Schofield, Chris Perry, Nigel Davidson, Martin Smith, Badger Walker, Alan Walker, Linnaire Carlton Bailey.

Apologies for Absence: Win Walsh, Steve Mathers, Rhona Goddard, Dennis Dell, Colin Bowler, Jenny Emerson, Jim Steele, Viv Evans, Michael Glendenning

Minutes of the 2021 AGM, available on the branch website <https://www.eastmidlands-butterflies.org.uk/news.html> and circulated in the Spring 2022 Newsletter, were taken as read.

Matters arising from these minutes: With reference to a request (AOB) for clarification about the official moth recorder for Derbyshire, JB reported that no-one was in post for any of the three counties.

Branch Organiser's Address – Jane Broomhead

JB thanked everyone for coming to the East Midlands Branch AGM.

She began by paying tribute to our ex-chairman and long-standing Moth/Butterfly Recorder for Leicestershire, Adrian Russell. She commented on the committee's hope to have printed a book on the moths and butterflies of Leicestershire, which Adrian had started since retirement and which was being completed by his friends following his death, aiming to use Branch funds and donations of £260 collected at his funeral.

JB reported that since the last AGM in March 2022 the Branch has been busy on various projects with the help of Rhona Goddard, our Midlands Regional Officer, some of which had been featured in the excellent branch newsletter produced by Eliot Taylor, and the Branch web site maintained to the highest standard by Neil Pinder. Chris Jackson was again very busy with 12 work parties for the Grizzled Skipper in the south Notts area. She commented that the Branch was so lucky to have Chris to organise these and offered a big thank you to him and all his volunteers who work hard to preserve habitat for this butterfly.

The Severn Trent Water funding was now at the stage where any habitat management was being progressed, but unfortunately Rhona was unable to attend or provide an update on this.

JB commented on the impressive progress made by Melanie Penson with her project on clearwings and other endangered moths throughout all four Counties. JB offered thanks to the three County Butterfly Recorders for sorting through thousands of records each year, and to other hard-working members, not only those on the committee, but also those who record their butterfly/moth findings, stressing the importance of every record.

An invitation was made for members to join the Branch Committee, which would involve two committee meetings a year usually at a hall just south of Derby, recently held during daylight hours, and the next scheduled for a Sunday afternoon.

BRANCH OFFICERS' REPORTS

Treasurer – Jane Broomhead

JB reported that the audited accounts for the year ending 31st March 2022 were not currently available due to ongoing changes in staff at Head Office responsible for their preparation and checking. She commented that the situation had been very unacceptable, with no monthly reports issued between March and June 2022, and then erroneous figures reported. These were later rectified after complaints to the Chief Executive, Julie Williams.

Finance at Head Office was now being run by Charlotte Davidson, recently appointed to resolve previous issues and train staff. It was hoped that the annual statement would be available shortly. Anyone who would like a copy was asked to email JB direct, details as shown in the Newsletter.

Although JB believed the branch had £13,444.45 in the bank at the end of March, a query had been raised in connection with reserve maintenance and this was under investigation by Head Office.

At present up to the 31 October 2022 the Branch Accounts showed a balance of £21,142.42. This took into account printing of Branch Newsletter, £2,000 to the GS project and mileage expenses at £874.55.

It also included income from sales and donations covered later in the Sales and Display Report.

Membership Secretary – Christine Maughan

CM reported that the annual statistics normally produced by Head Office each November had not been available in 2021 so a direct comparison with the previous year's figures was not possible. Information for this report was based on statistics provided by Butterfly Conservation on 1 November 2022.

For the organisation as a whole, total membership had dropped by 3.5% since March 2022. The national total was just over 40,600 individual members.

Since 17 March 2022, membership within the East Midlands Branch had also fallen by the same rate with a net loss of 41 households.

The total branch membership at 1 November 2022 was 1285 households, representing 1807 individual members.

The branch remained ranked 9th biggest within Butterfly Conservation by household membership.

At a local level, a breakdown of branch membership by county showed that numbers were fairly evenly split with 33% of our total membership from Derbyshire, 32% from Nottinghamshire, 32% from Leicestershire and Rutland, and the remaining 3% from other areas.

Regular e-newsletters had been sent out during the season via Head Office to publicise our events, but there had been some difficulty due to staff changes at Head Office which meant that some mailings had not been as timely as intended. It was hoped this would improve in the future.

BUTTERFLY RECORDERS

Derbyshire Recorders – Ken and Pat Orpe

KO reported that the strange weather in 2022 had seen a cold April followed by a very dry and hot summer, with intense heat in July and August, resulting in six heatwaves in the county compared with the average of three. A record temperature of 39°C was recorded in Derby on 19 July. As a consequence many plants withered in the heat, and many caterpillars perished. The heat continued through the autumn resulting in 13 butterfly species being recorded during October and 7 in November.

Individual species had shown mixed results after a slow start, with Dingy Skipper, Holly Blue and Orange Tip doing well in the Spring, and the earliest ever sighting of the Wall Brown in Matlock on the 25 March. This endangered species then had a different season to normal with its distribution being spread across Peak Fringe areas as well as its hot spots in the Peak District where it had a third brood into October 2022. Meanwhile the Painted Lady first appeared in April 2022 and had a reasonable year. Not so the Clouded Yellow with only 12 records this year, but the Humming Bird Hawk moth did really well. Both White Letter and Purple Hairstreaks had a reasonable year thanks to fine weather in July, but both Peacocks and Small Tortoiseshells had a poor late summer due to the caterpillars being killed off by heat. Silver-washed Fritillary (25 records) had overtaken Dark Green Fritillary (22 records) on the Lathkill Dale transect.

East Midlands transects totalled 186 in 2022 (Derbyshire 129, Nottinghamshire 31, Leicestershire 26), leading the country ahead of Hampshire & Isle of Wight, Surrey, W Midlands and Upper Thames branches.

Early indications were that transect records in 2022 were below 2021, with reductions of between 2% and 23% at Allestree Park, Hoe Grange Quarry, Dene Quarry/Gang Mine, Derby Canal, Lathkill Dale and various sites in NE Derbyshire, but Kedleston Park and West Hallam Tip had shown increases of 13% and 15% respectively.

Online entry on the UKBMS site had been completed for 40 sites during 2022 by volunteers, and with another 90 sites to be input, KO invited others to undertake direct entry next year.

Under the Wider Countryside Butterfly Scheme, involving four surveys a year from May to August over a set route, there were currently vacancies in three squares – Abney, Baslow and Radbourne.

To date 17 butterfly banks had been created in the county with limestone chatter provided free of charge by Longcliffe Quarries Ltd.

KO confirmed dates for transect training and butterfly ID on 19 March 2023 in Allestree, the National Recorders' meeting on 25 March 2023 in Birmingham and Hoe Grange Quarry Open Day on Sunday 2 July 2023. He also invited subscribers to his email newsletters for latest sightings and photographs.

Nottinghamshire Recorder – Steve Mathers *(a pre-recorded video presentation was shown, summarised as follows:)*

A review of 2022

Approximately 18,000 records had been received from approximately 800 recorders so far, up 10% on 2021.

All records had been verified in iRecord.

Records from the Big Butterfly Count would not be received until next Spring.

Records had increased from the east of the county north of Newark-on-Trent and from Idle Valley in the north of the county, thanks to Phil Cadman and his team.

32 species had again been recorded, the most common being Small White, with significant falls in Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock numbers since 2021.

A chart of flight times indicated a very early Gatekeeper (which together with another record from Derbyshire were the first two UK records of the species for 2022), a second brood of Dingy Skippers, low numbers of Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell and Brimstone after mid-July, a good year for Clouded Yellow, and eight species flying beyond mid-October.

Impacts of the very hot, dry summer had indicated that early stages struggled as host plants died or wilted, and life cycles speeded up giving the possibility of extra broods.

There was further analysis of Green Hairstreak which had been added to the Notts Biodiversity Action Group as a species of concern and interest, but it had been recorded 69 times in 2022. An article by SM on the Green Hairstreak in Notts had been published in the Autumn 2022 edition of the branch newsletter.

2022 Highlights included:

- Strong first brood of Holly Blue and Orange-tip
- New sites in SW Notts for Purple Emperor and Marbled White
- A record number of Grizzled Skipper records (182), probably due to more concentrated recording efforts
- Strong expansion of Silver-washed Fritillary in Sherwood (although some had been assisted)
- Second brood of Dingy Skipper in the Idle Valley

2022 lowlights were:

- Wall evidently now extinct in Notts, having been last recorded near Misson in 2019
- Poor results for Dark Green Fritillary

Migrants:

- Although there had been a big influx of Painted Lady and Red Admiral in May, it didn't continue to be a big year for Painted Lady.
- Clouded Yellow did well with 8 Notts records and Queen of Spain Fritillary made ingress into coastal Kent.

Current trends included increased interest in recording early stages, use of AI for identification, increase in membership of the Notts Facebook group by 100 to 230 members, and popularity of using pheromone lures for moth recording.

Notable moths recorded in Notts in 2022 were Convolvulus Hawkmoth, Hummingbird Hawkmoth, Clifden Nonpareil, Cypress Pug, Box Tree moth, Emperor moth and various Clearwing moth species.

A final comment about the state of British butterflies on a national level urged positivity.

SM concluded by thanking the regular recorders in Notts, and paid tribute to the help and encouragement he had received from the late Adrian Russell.

Leicestershire and Rutland Recorder – Richard Jeffery

Butterfly Transects 2022:

26 Transects in total were carried out in VC55, 7 in conjunction with LRWT.

New for 2022 were:

- Bradgate Park – Newtown Linford LRWT
- Bradgate Park – Old John LRWT
- Burbage Common & Woods
- Donington le Heath Woodland & Meadow
- Loughborough University Arboretum
- Twycross Zoo Nature Park & Meadow

It was hoped that these Transects would be repeated next year, and subsequently year on year.

The National Forest - Heart of the Forest area - sites were still being monitored even though the HoF project had now ended:

- Donisthorpe Woodland Park
- Hick's Lodge
- Pick Triangle Wood
- Sarah's Wood
- Willesley Wood

Proposed New Transects for 2023:

- Bardon Hill Quarry – Northern Landform (LRWT)
- Bradgate Park – Swithland Wood (LRWT)
- Ketton Quarry (LRWT)
- Market Bosworth Country Park

It was hoped that suitable sites for transects would be found in the North East and East of the county; in particular the Oakham, Melton Mowbray and Soar & Wreake Valley areas.

Priority Species for Surveying in VC55:

- Dingy Skipper
- Grizzled Skipper
- Wall (Charnwood – 2-3km radius of Bardon Hill)
- Small Heath (Charnwood & Rutland)
- Green Hairstreak
- White-letter Hairstreak
- Black Hairstreak (Luffenham Heath Golf Course & Ketton Quarry)
- White Admiral (Rutland)

Planned activities for 2023:

- Seek and monitor potential Butterfly recording sites in the Soar and Wreake Valleys, and the Melton Mowbray area.
- Monitor key parks in Leicester city centre for White-letter Hairstreak butterflies where established and new Elm trees are present, with the assistance of L.C.C.
- Zonal surveying on the newly developed areas of heathland and meadow on the Bardon Hill Quarry estate (target species: Wall, Green Hairstreak & Dingy Skipper).
- Investigate previously known and potential new sites for White Admiral butterflies in L&R.

The Purple Emperor in VC55 2022:

- The Purple Emperor continued to consolidate its presence in the Charnwood area, expanding its range outwards from Beacon Hill, Bardon Hill Quarry and Charnwood Lodge.
- Overall H.I.M. was recorded in 11 new sites in Leicestershire & Rutland, with Bagworth Heath, Cademan Wood (NW Leics), Ketton Quarry and Owston Wood (Rutland) being the most notable.
- Extensive surveying and monitoring is being carried out by volunteers led by Ian Surman to assess suitable habitat and to seek out the larval, pupal and adult stages of the butterfly.
- Continued monitoring will be undertaken over the coming years.

The Dingy Skipper in VC55 2022:

- The Dingy Skipper was recorded on 11 (fewer than usual) distinct sites in L&R. Asfordby Hill, Brown's Hill Quarry, Ketton Quarry & Stonesby Quarry were the key sites.
- Dingy Skipper was once again recorded on the Butterfly Transects at Bardon Hill, Bagworth Heath, New Lount NR and Donisthorpe Woodland Park. Sadly none were seen on the transect at Hicks Lodge this year.
- The Grizzled Skipper was recorded on 6 distinct sites, with Asfordby Hill, Bloody Oaks Quarry and Ketton Quarry being the key sites. The butterfly was also seen at Stonesby Quarry but not in any significant numbers.
- Both species could be present in other locations in the county and more investigation was required to find sites with suitable habitat.
- Propose also to ask recorders to re-visit known sites where the butterflies have been recorded in recent years.

Other notable sightings in VC55 2022:

- The White Admiral butterfly was recorded on 3 sites in the North East & the East of L&R in June and July: Prior's Coppice (LRWT), Launde Park Wood (LRWT) and Barkestone Wood.
- A Wall Brown butterfly was seen on a gravel drive in Holwell (north of Melton Mowbray) on 21 August. Last recorded in this area in 2007 at the Holwell Nature Reserves (LRWT).
- A Clouded Yellow butterfly was seen on the Transect at Donisthorpe Woodland Park on the 5th of September.
- It was also recorded in 4 other locations at Rutland Water (2), Wymondham and Normanton le Heath.

EMBC Field Trips in VC55 in 2022:

Sunday 22 May: Brown's Hill Quarry (19 species of butterfly and day-flying moth); Stonesby Quarry (20 species). Key species: Dingy Skipper and Green Hairstreak

Wednesday 25 May: Ketton Quarry & Bloody Oaks Quarry (9 species of butterfly and 10 species of day-flying moth). Key species: Dingy & Grizzled Skipper and Small Heath

Tuesday 26 July: Cloud Wood (11 species of butterfly). Key species: Silver-washed Fritillary, Purple & White-letter Hairstreak

RJ expressed thanks to all volunteers who took part in any of our transects this season and also to anyone who submitted butterfly records throughout the year.

Grizzled/Dingy Skipper Project Officer – Mark Searle

The Grizzled Skipper is one of the rarest species found in the East Midlands and has been the target of much conservation and habitat management work over the last decade. Data from the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (UKBMS) show that we are at the northern limit of its range in the East Midlands. It is largely a species of the calcareous grasslands / downlands of southern England, but uses a variety of habitats including warm, sheltered disused railway lines and old quarry sites with sparse vegetation, which are abundant within our region.

Sites are generally confined to the south and south east of Nottinghamshire, North Leicestershire and to the East of Rutland Water. The 2021/22 Autumn/Winter working parties, led by Chris Jackson from the Notts Biodiversity Action Group (Notts BAG), resumed after the covid-layoff and successfully completed

scrub clearance work, habitat improvement and the planting of larval food plants at many key sites on or adjacent to the main corridors in Notts. The main populations in Notts are found south of Newark along the old railway line at Cotham and adjacent sites at Kilvington Lakes, Flawborough and Staunton Quarry; a second area occurs south along the Bingham Linear Park and in a few patches down towards the Leicestershire border. In the south of Notts, the stretch of the Great Central Heritage railway line supports a good population, particularly on private land along the line south of East Leake where much conservation work has been carried out.

Considerable effort from a dedicated group of monitors has produced an excellent data set of recordings from many of these sites in Notts, including many observations of early stages, particularly egg-laying sites. Wild Strawberry, Creeping Cinquefoil and Agrimony are all being used extensively with the bare track-bed, constructed stone piles and sloping embankments providing excellent sites. Butterflies and early stages were recorded at 16 locations in Notts, with 180 recordings submitted, including 42 of the early stages. New records and sightings came from the St. Gobain (British Gypsum) factory site near Newark. In other locations ova were found where the butterfly had not been seen (Rushcliffe Halt and Staunton treatment plant), and Orston Pits where sightings had not been recorded for some years. Despite the cool weather in April, Grizzled Skippers appeared on cue on 21st April and performed well in this early period remaining on the wing until 25th June. The butterfly is quite thinly dispersed on many of these sites and can be challenging to find along long stretches of railway track. Management of these interconnected patchworks and wildlife corridors, through Notts BAG activities, appears to be having a positive impact in the South and South East of Notts.

Over the border into North Leicestershire, butterflies were recorded at 5 locations and 20 sightings submitted. The traditional strongholds have been at Asfordby Hill / Sidings on the western edge of Melton Mowbray, and these sites returned a number of small single figure counts, along with imago / ova observations at Stonesby Quarry to the east of Melton. Further South in Rutland, the stronghold at Ketton Quarry returned an early season peak, but subsequently had low single figure counts through the rest of May. The butterfly was also seen at low levels close-by at Bloody Oaks Quarry. Overall the recorded flight season was 16th April to 7th June. Recording at these sites has been sporadic over the last few years, and although the butterfly is hanging on, the populations are well below historical levels.

Finally, the re-introduction site at the National Trust's Ticknall Limeyards at Calke Park is the only 'authorised' site where the Grizzled Skipper can be found in Derbyshire. The species is struggling in this wooded quarry site. 3 recordings were made between 14th – 19th May.

CONSERVATION

Nottingham/Leicestershire Conservation Officer – Melanie Penson

MP outlined work on the following projects, some carried out in conjunction with Rhona Goddard, Regional Conservation Manager:

- **Grizzled and Dingy Skipper** monitoring across all four counties.
- **Silver-studded Blue re-introduction at Clumber Park** – habitat assessments; working with National Trust wardens to achieve regeneration of the heather which is vital for the larvae since they are at the northern edge of their range and have a shorter life cycle; research into black ant dynamics in conjunction with research projects of some Nottingham University students; awareness of problems of Heather Beetle population explosions which pose a serious threat to the success of the project; formulating a roadmap to the SSB reintroduction.

- **Grizzled Skipper** habitat assessment at Ticknall Limeyards - discussions with NT wardens to suggest ways to open up the site and allow in more light and warmth by tree thinning, sheep grazing and strimming.

East Midlands Conservation Officer - Moths – Melanie Penson

The following work had been undertaken:

- **Argent & Sable moth** – following recent records in Derbyshire after an absence of 40 years, partly due to forestry work in Shining Cliff Wood and Bottom Moor Wood, MP had visited known last sites in May 2022 to undertake habitat assessments; asserting pressure to get this moth reinstated on the Regional Conservation Strategy programme.
- continuation of Clearwing moth surveying – **Hornet moth**: 6 sites visited and a 7th found; **Hornet and Lunar Hornet moth**: Loughborough site surveyed with plans to look at other poplar sites; **Red-tipped and 6-Belted Clearwing**: more records found in Notts and S Derbyshire, and aimed to undertake more monitoring across nature reserves from the Notts border to West Hallam next year; **Large Red-belted and Welsh Clearwing**: confined to Notts, and monitoring had taken place at Sherwood where the 8th and 9th records since 1989 for the East Midlands had been noted, with plans to extend investigation to Budby next year; **Orange-tailed Clearwing**: found at Ketton Quarry where management had been undertaken for Grizzled and Dingy Skipper; **Yellow-legged Clearwing**: noted at Sherwood Forest.
- **Liquorice Piercer moth** – following discovery of the foodplant, wild liquorice, at Ketton Quarry in May, a further visit resulted in sightings of the adult moth and larval evidence. A database of the plant is to be used to carry out further surveys in Rutland next year.
- **4-Spotted moth** – to be investigated in 2023.

Conservation Advisor East Midlands – Jim Steele

(the following statement from Jim was read out in his absence)

“I have decided to stand down as Derbyshire Conservation Officer, mainly because of continued health problems, and I hope someone else will be prepared to take on this worthwhile role, in which case I would give them my full support. I would like to thank all those BC members and other organisations and individuals who have helped and supported me throughout the last several years, and of course the Branch Committee, in particular Jane for all her support, Ken for all his knowledge, support and information and to Rhona Goddard, our Midlands Regional Conservation Officer. Special thanks to BC volunteer Lesley Parker who has been of inestimable value in filtering and administering my efforts with pertinent Derbyshire County Council Planning Applications.

It is my intention to continue as Branch Conservation Advisor subject to the support of the Branch membership and Committee. I see this role as being primarily responding to individuals and organisations who seek advice on habitat creation and enhancement for butterflies, particularly in my home county of Derbyshire. There are a few outstanding planning issues and conservation projects which I will endeavour to cover for now, given they are important for butterfly conservation.

I intend to document all of my efforts over the years for the Branch Committee in the next few months, so that there is a permanent record for any future reference.

My email and telephone number are on the Branch website should anyone wish to contact me – please feel free to do so.

All best wishes, and my apologies for not being able to attend the AGM – my son’s wedding had to take priority!”

Field Trips Organiser's Report – Max Maughan

Twelve field trips, plus Hoe Grange Open Day, had been arranged for 2022. Two had not taken place owing to bad weather (Longstone Edge) and Covid issues (Coombs Dale). Of the ten trips, the total number of people attending was 110 and the average was 11. A good selection of butterflies and day flying moths, including Six Belted Clearwing and Lunar Hornet Clearwing had been recorded.

MM thanked all those who had led walks and invited volunteers to lead walks next year.

He confirmed that the booking system would be continued as it had proved particularly beneficial when trips had to be cancelled as it allowed people to be notified easily, and although a maximum of 12 participants was suggested, it was up to the discretion of the leader if they wished to allow more participants.

Consideration of parking and other facilities needed to be factored in when choosing locations to visit.

Newsletter Editor – Eliot Taylor

As usual two issues of the newsletter were produced, in Spring and Autumn.

The Spring issue ran to 24 pages and featured the minutes of the 2021 AGM as well as:

- The 2022 Field Trip Programme
- An article by Jim Steele on "Conservation in Action"
- The 2021 Dingy and Grizzled Skipper Report by Mark Searle.

The Autumn issue was a little late in being distributed, mainly because of staff changes at Butterfly Conservation Head Office, who organise printing. This issue had in it the Field Trip Reports and also:

- information on the Grizzled Skipper Winter Work Party programme
- an interesting article on the Green Hairstreak by Steve Mathers
- and sadly, an obituary to Adrian Russell.

Finally, the copy deadline for the Spring 2023 edition was set as Saturday 1st April.

Publicity Officer – Gary Atkins

GA commented that 2022 had proved to be just about the quietest year he could recall from a publicity point of view. Despite being able to resurrect the Hoe Grange Quarry open day, and circulating a promotional leaflet to several of the local media, there had been no interest/attendance on the day and only one pre-event interview (Ken Orpe speaking to Radio Derby).

There had been no other storylines forthcoming from our region which looked likely to pique the interest of the public at large (such as ones detailing neighbourhood projects, or money spent on conservation, brand new records, statistics on butterflies, local initiatives, etc). He was also unaware of very much generated from Head Office, except for promotion of and later detailing the results from Big Butterfly Count.

Looking forward, GA predicted that any projects in the East Midlands associated with the Severn Trent Water Fund cash may offer the clearest storyline the general public might latch on to ... plus perhaps some specific conservation projects aimed at local media outlets.

It was also worth noting that Melanie had been featured in a recent edition of Butterfly magazine.

Sales & Display Organiser - Jane Broomhead

Since the last report at the AGM in March 2022 the following events had been attended:

AGM March 2022	£286.54 (plus Tombola £67.00)
Burbage Common	£496.80
Hoe Grange Quarry	£353.70
Bird Fair	£849.14 (plus Plants £85.50)
North Notts Ploughing Match	<u>£194.90</u>
Total sales goods	£2181.08
Tombola	£ 67.00
Plant Sales	<u>£ 85.50</u>
	<u>£2333.58</u>

The following events had been booked for 2023:

- Burbage Common - 14 May
- Hoe Grange Quarry Open Day – 2 July
- Rempstone Steam Fair - 9/10 July
- Global Bird Fair, Oakham Showground – 14-16 July

Butterfly Distribution Maps Co-ordinator – Christine Maughan

CM reported that there had been no change since the last report in March 2022. Species distribution maps had been produced up to and including 2020, the most recent dataset currently available, and these had all been published on the branch website.

Regional Conservation Manager (Midlands) – Rhona Goddard

No report had been received owing to illness.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

In accordance with branch rules, the three longest serving committee members stood down and offered themselves for re-election. These were Max Maughan as Field Trip Officer, Jane Broomhead as Sales and Display Organiser and Gary Atkins as Publicity Officer.

These were re-elected together under a single nomination.

Proposed by Pat Orpe, seconded by Bill Bacon.

Changes in committee were also nominated: these were Melanie Penson as East Midlands Moth Officer, and Jim Steele as Conservation Advisor. These changes were adopted, proposed by Gary Atkins, seconded by Richard Jeffery.

Any Other Business:

County Moth Recorders: Richard Jeffery pointed out that moth recording in Leicestershire was now being carried out by Mark Skevington and team, but Jane Broomhead commented that he did not hold an official

BC post. It was also noted that Kieron Huston of Derbyshire Wildlife Trust was acting as temporary recorder for Derbyshire, but Jane requested further information.

There being no further business the formal meeting finished at 12.30pm.

After lunch Ken Orpe gave an interesting update on the progress and development of the Hoe Grange Quarry Reserve since its creation.

This was followed by a presentation on 'Gardening for Pollinators' by Christine Maughan

The event concluded with Members' photographs.

The meeting closed at 3.15pm.

Christine Maughan