

# EAST MIDLANDS Butterfly

ISSUE 70 - SPRING 2022



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Field Trip  
Programme**

**The 2021  
Branch AGM**



**Butterfly  
Conservation**

Saving butterflies, moths and our environment



**East  
Midlands  
BUTTERFLY  
CONSERVATION**

Conservation for the whole of Derbyshire,  
Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire & Rutland

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Cover Picture:  
Brown Hairstreak  
at Chambers  
Farm Wood  
Lincolnshire.

Below:  
Silver-studded  
Blue at Prees  
Heath Common,  
Shropshire.

Two sites we  
visit in our Field  
Trip Programme  
this year.

Photos:  
Eliot Taylor

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**T**o the Spring 2022 issue of the East Midlands Branch of Butterfly Conservation's Newsletter. Thanks to all those who have contributed articles for this issue.

I write these notes in the evening after an enjoyable branch AGM at Ravenshead. It seems strange to attend our AGM on a beautiful Spring day, but of course these have been strange times due to the pandemic. It has been nearly two and a half years since the branch was last able to hold its AGM and Members Day in person and it was nice to see familiar faces as well as being able to put faces to names that I've previously only known by email.

You will find the minutes of the meeting in this newsletter.

I sure many of you will be pleased to see that we have been able to resume a full Field Trip Programme this year, following the cancelled and curtailed events of the past two years. Most of the trips are within our region, or are not too far to travel to. Please remember that numbers will be limited to 12 people (plus the leader) on these trips, so you will need to book your place with the walk leader.

Let's hope for a better Spring this year weather wise, as butterfly numbers were down last year following the poor conditions in April and May 2021.

Eliot Taylor

## Branch Organiser's Notes

**W**hat a pleasure to see old and new members at the recent AGM at Ravenshead, Nottinghamshire. It is difficult to believe it was nearly two and half years since the last AGM in November 2019. We were entertained by two very informative talks from Chris Jackson on '10 Years of Volunteering for the Grizzled Skipper Project' and Melanie Penson on 'The Clearwing Project'. Both of these are on the web site for those of you who were unable to attend the meeting.

One of the topics for discussion at the AGM was the lack of progress with regard to the Severn Trent funding. After looking at many sites in all four counties it was somewhat disheartening to see that very little work had taken place during the first year of funding. Since the AGM the branch has received reassurance from BC Northern Conservation Officer, Dave Wainwright, that BC is very aware that once again the East Midlands has not fared well with this project. Thank goodness for our tireless volunteers who have spent many hours over the winter doing conservation work on sites throughout the East Midlands area. If you live local to any Dingy or Grizzled Skipper sites please could you record any of these butterflies as this is the only way we can gauge where work is needed. Lets hope in the 2022 season numbers for these iconic butterflies improve.



Currant Clearwing  
(Photo Melanie Penson)

Jane Broomhead  
Branch Organiser

## Conservation in action – our efforts here in the East Midlands

**T**he Branch continues in many ways to try and conserve our butterflies – this is, after all, at the heart of why we are here. Our County Recorders play a crucial role in collecting and collating the butterfly information throughout our Branch area and it is this which underpins our conservation efforts – we need to know what we have and where before we can conserve it.

The so-called 'Brownfield Sites', be they old pit heaps, disused railway lines, quarries or former industrial sites, continue to be very important in our area in many cases, and whilst these sites are often considered appropriate for development, it is fortuitous if perhaps unexpected that these sites can hold some of our key butterflies – Dingy and Grizzled Skipper

being the most obvious examples. It can be difficult to influence the planning authorities sufficiently to save these sites or parts thereof, but we will do so where resources permit, often in liaison with the County Wildlife Trusts. In Derbyshire, two important sites are still the subject of development proposals and we continue to try and make the case for our key butterflies at Stanton near Ilkeston and at Whitwell in the North-East of the county. There are some such sites that are not in immediate danger of being developed, but still require habitat management, and there are examples of dedicated groups and individuals committed to this management - a contribution we should all recognise - and we are also continuing to work to distribute funds for the management of selected sites through our Mosaics Project.

In contrast to saving sites, or at least endeavouring to do so, a more rewarding and sometimes more fruitful endeavour is the advice we can provide for people, groups and businesses with gardens or larger areas of land, given the desire to take some positive action for butterflies. This can be as simple as providing or retaining a bed of nettles in a warm, sheltered garden corner – Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Comma and Red Admiral all use nettles for breeding – to creating a Butterfly Bank complete with plants such as Birds Foot Trefoil for Dingy Skipper and Common Blue. I have had more inquiries of late in this regard, and it is very uplifting when landowners seek out the advice and then commit to making habitat changes or creating habitat for butterflies. There are resources available on the Butterfly Conservation

## CONSERVATION



website relating to gardening and habitat creation for butterflies and moths, so well worth searching it out if you have the inclination! The picture shows a Butterfly Bank in its infancy at the Shipley Woodside Community Garden near Heanor in Derbyshire.

Jim Steele, Derbyshire Conservation Officer  
(email: [jim\\_steele@btinternet.com](mailto:jim_steele@btinternet.com)).



# Field Trip Programme 2022



Grizzled Skipper  
(Photo Eliot Taylor)

These field trips are a great way to learn about butterflies and their habitat, there will be help with identification available and there will also be photographic opportunities. Walks are open to anyone to attend. Please check weather conditions and come suitably prepared.

## THE FOLLOWING IS VERY IMPORTANT.

All walks must be **pre-booked** with the leader of the walk. This is essential so the leader can inform you if the walk is cancelled for any reason. Also, all walks will be limited to a maximum of 12 participants. If you arrive at a venue without booking, you could be turned away if the number of participants has reached its maximum.

### Brown's Hill Quarry (LRWT) Reserve

(Leicestershire)  
Sunday 22 May

Meet: 11.00am Please park on the hard standing opposite the reserve. Limited parking and PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON THE GRASSLAND AS THIS IS PRIVATELY OWNED GRAZING LAND.

Location: SK742234. (Postcode for Sat Nav LE14 4SZ). Brown's Hill Quarry is part of the Holwell Nature Reserves in the heart of Leicestershire, about 5km north of Melton Mowbray on the edge of the Vale of Belvoir. It is part of a disused quarry and the ground is somewhat steep and uneven.

Stout footwear is recommended. It hosts a mixture of grassland, old tunnels and exposed rock faces, and supports an impressive range of flora and fauna.

Target Species: *Dingy Skipper* and *Green Hairstreak*.

After lunch there is an option to move onto Stonesby Quarry

N.B. Please bring your own refreshments and remember to avoid leaving litter.

### Stonesby Quarry (LRWT) Nature Reserve

(Leicestershire)

Meet: 2pm in the small lay-by opposite the reserve. PLEASE DO NOT BLOCK THE FIELD ENTRANCE.

Location: SK811252. (Postcode for Sat Nav LE14 4AB). Stonesby Quarry lies east of the village of Waltham on the Wolds. This tiny quarry boasts one of the best botanical sites in the county which, in turn, supports a diverse range of fauna.

Target Species: *Grizzled Skipper* and *Dingy Skipper*.

Contact: Richard Jeffery  
07803 599247

### Ketton Quarry (LRWT) Nature Reserve

(Rutland)  
Wednesday 25 May

Parking in Pit Lane, Ketton, Stamford PE9 3SZ.  
GR SK 979053 (Sheet 141)

Ketton Quarry is located in eastern Rutland. From the A47 take the A6121 towards Stamford. This road passes through Ketton, but just before leaving the village turn left into Pit Lane. The entrance to the reserve is on the left about 400m further on just after the roundabout. The reserve is accessed via steps. Stout footwear is recommended.

After lunch (bring a packed lunch) there is an option to move onto **Bloody Oaks Quarry** (LRWT) Reserve. 3 miles away.

This diverse quarry is located just south of the A1 in Rutland. From the A606, turn into Empingham Village and take

Grantham Lane for about 3km heading north-east towards the A1. The reserve is on your right-hand side, east of the road, at the northern edge of a woodland.

Post Code PE9 4AG GR SK 970108 (Sheet 130)

Most of this tiny reserve is species-rich limestone grassland, which is rare in the two counties, making it a real gem for Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust.

Cars should be parked on the wide roadside verge opposite the reserve entrance. PLEASE DO NOT PARK ACROSS THE GATEWAY.

Target Species: *Spring butterflies including, Dingy and Grizzled Skipper, and Green Hairstreak.*

There are no facilities at either site.

Contact: Max Maughan  
07484 881502

### Bingham Linear Park

(Nottinghamshire)  
Sunday 29 May

Meet at 10.00am at the bridge on Tithby Road in Bingham (grid ref SK 701393).  
Approx NG13 8GP.

Target Species: *Spring butterflies - hopefully Grizzled Skipper.*

Wear stout walking boots or shoes as the ground is rough. No toilets or facilities so bring your own drink or snack.

The walk is about 6 km and takes approx 2 hours.

Contact: Jenny Craig  
07979 355413

### Longstone Edge

(Derbyshire)  
Sunday 5 June

Meet 10.30am at the big layby Grid Ref SK 199 730 on the single-track road that leaves Great Longstone on the left, just at the RHS bend in the village coming from Monsal Head. The St Crispin pub is just beyond this. If you see this you have gone too far!

This is a meet suitable for those who have difficulty getting around as the walking is very short and easy. There are no conveniences.

Target Species: - We hope to see *Green Hairstreak* and *Wall Brown* if they are out, but also other *spring butterflies*.

Contact: John & Sylvia Green  
07760 136369

### The Forge, Codnor Park

(Derbyshire)  
Friday 10 June

Meet 11.00am

Target Species: *Dingy Skipper* and other *summer butterflies*.

For details of meeting point and parking please ring Jim Steele

Contact: Jim Steele  
07850 194502



Dingy Skipper  
(Photo Eliot Taylor)



Green Hairstreak  
(Photo Eliot Taylor)

**Chambers Farm Wood**

(Lincolnshire)

**Tuesday 21 June**

Meet at 10.30am at the Car Park just past the Centre.

GR TF147740. Hoop Lane, Wragby, Lincs. LN8 5JR.

From Wragby, take the B1202 southwards towards Bardney, through the village of Kingthorpe and turn first left (Hoop Lane) and first right along the track to the car park. If this is full, further parking is available further down the track.

Chambers Farm Wood is on the site of a medieval woodland and contains many ancient Limes and a wealth of Butterflies. There is also a Butterfly Garden managed by the Lincolnshire Branch of BC.

Target Species: *White Admiral*, *Silver-washed Fritillary*, *summer Hairstreaks* and *Currant Clearwing*. There will also be a good chance of *Broad-bordered Bee Hawkmoth* in the butterfly garden.

There are toilets and a picnic area, but no cafe.

**Contact: Melanie Penson**  
**07495 612342**



**Broad-bordered Bee Hawkmoth**  
(Photo Eliot Taylor)

**Bevercotes**

(Nottinghamshire)

**Saturday 2 July**

This trip will be an extensive survey for *Six-belted Clearwings* across this very large site.

Meet 10.00am. The walk should finish about 2.00pm

From Ollerton, take the B6387 north eastwards towards the A1 (Retford), follow round the sharp bend at Haughton, cross over two rivers (Maun and

Meden) and take the second right. Go over the railway bridge and **park under the mature trees on the roadside**. The entrance to the site is about 100m further on, on the left through a metal gate.

There are no facilities on this site.

Pheromone lures will be provided.

**Contact: Melanie Penson**  
**07495 612342**

**Hoe Grange Quarry**

(Longcliffe, Derbyshire – SK222560)

**Sunday 3 July****The 4th Open Day for Derbyshire's first Butterfly Reserve****From 11.00am to 4.00pm.**

Members of Butterfly Conservation East Midlands, including Ray Walker (Hon Warden), Derek Brownlee (Hon Assistant Warden) together with Pat and Ken Orpe will be able to show visitors around this restored limestone quarry where already 29 species of butterflies have been recorded including *Dark Green Fritillary* and the Peak District version of the *Brown Argus*. It will also be possible to see the work that many volunteers have done to enhance the habitat so as to increase the biodiversity at the site.

**Parking**

Due to possible parking difficulties, final arrangements will be confirmed on the Hoe Grange Quarry webpage nearer the date of the Open Day, details can found at [www.hoegrangquarry.co.uk](http://www.hoegrangquarry.co.uk)

**Contact: Ken Orpe** [ken@malaga.plus.com](mailto:ken@malaga.plus.com)



**Dark Green Fritillary**  
(Photo Christine Maughan)

**Prees Heath Common****BC Reserve**

(Shropshire)

**Tuesday 5 July**

Meet: 11.00am at the site entrance which is on the A49 opposite the turning to Steel Heath. There is no signpost. The reserve is two miles south of Whitchurch.

Parking: There is limited parking on the side of a track opposite the road to Steel Heath. Please car share as much as possible.

Grid Ref: SJ 557363.

The Reserve was used as an airfield during the Second World War and was purchased in 2006 by Butterfly Conservation. An extensive re-creation project was required on the areas of former arable cultivation and continues today. Its acidic grassland provides suitable habitat for the Silver-Studded Blue and this walk, to be led by Prees Heath Warden, Stephen Lewis, is in conjunction with a proposed reintroduction of this butterfly in the East Midlands.

Strictly **limited** places for this walk and must be pre-booked.

Target Species: *Silver-studded Blue*

If time allows we may carry on to another local Nature Reserve.

**Contact: Jane Broomhead**  
[malcsmonkeys@hotmail.com](mailto:malcsmonkeys@hotmail.com)



**Silver-washed Fritillary**  
(Photo Derek Martin)

**Aston Brickyards (LNR)**

(Derbyshire)

**Sunday 10 July**

Meet at 11.00am at the site entrance which is on Derby Road, Aston at Grid Reference SK413303 – ample parking is available just inside the site gates.

This 'brownfield' site of 3.5 hectares is the flagship Community Project for the site owners (Derbyshire County Council) and a local group known as FAB (Friends of Aston Brickyards) was set up in 2013 and subsequently the site has been designated as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR). A butterfly transect has been carried out on site since the year 2000 and to date 25

species have been recorded on site, many of which are breeding there.

Target species on the day include *White-letter Hairstreak* (present), *Purple Hairstreak* (not yet recorded on the oaks), *Silver Washed Fritillary* (seen during the last 2 summers) and *Essex Skipper* (present).

Visitors will be able to see the conservation work that has been carried out including the butterfly bank, the planting of disease resistant elms and the creation of a new pond.

The visit should finish by 1.00pm.

**Contact: Ken Orpe** [ken@malaga.plus.com](mailto:ken@malaga.plus.com)



**Coombs Dale**

(Derbyshire)

**Wednesday 20 July**

Meet at 10.00am at the bottom of the Dale by the playing field where there is a parking area - SK 236751. It is on the A623 towards Stoney Middleton. There is also parking around Calver Crossroads.

Target species: *Dark-Green Fritillary*, *Brown Argus* and other summer butterflies.

Morning walk finishes around 12.30pm. Facilities available in nearby pub and cafe.

**Contact: John and Al Roberts**  
**01142 306487,**  
**07752 675363**



**Above: Purple Emperor**  
(Photo Christine Maughan)



**White-letter Hairstreak**  
(Photo Derek Martin)

**Cloud Wood (LRWT) Nature Reserve**

(Leicestershire)

**Tuesday 26 July**

Meet: 3.00pm in the lay-by opposite the reserve.

Location: SK417214. (Postcode for Sat Nav DE73 8BG). Cloud Wood lies in the N.W. of Leicestershire, 1.5km S.E. of Breedon-on-the-Hill on the road between Tonge and Griffydham.

It is part of the site of an ancient woodland that was originally coppiced in the traditional way. Parts of the wood are still coppiced by the Wildlife Trust in rotation, and other areas are left to grow naturally. There is a diverse range of flora and fauna present.

Nearest toilets and facilities (lovely cafe) are in Staunton Harold Garden Centre (LE65 1RU).

Target Species: *Silver-washed Fritillary*, *White-letter Hairstreak* and hopefully *Purple Emperor*.

**Contact: Richard Jeffery**  
**07803 599247**

**Pleasley Pit Country Park, Pleasley**

(Derbyshire)

**Saturday 6 August**

Meet at the Pit Café (open 10.00am – 2.00pm) at 10.45am, Post Code: NG19 7EY, Grid reference: SK49918 64418.

There are good facilities on site and if members of the Pit Team are on site it might be possible for anyone interested to have a tour of the Pit Top and Winding Houses.

Also worth pointing out that if anyone takes a liking to the site there is Pleasley Pit Nature Study Group that is active and always on the lookout for new members, £7.00 annual membership fee.

The walk (weather permitting) should be easy going with two hours being the maximum time needed for the route.

Target species: *Countryside Butterflies*, that said there have been good numbers of *Small Blues* seen on site during the last two years.

Directions: From M1, Junction 29 take the A617 to Mansfield. There is only one roundabout

on the route, approximately 3.5 miles from the Motorway, at the roundabout take the 4th exit, then take the first right up Pit Lane, drive past the first car park, go through the gate and turn right and drive up to the car park at the Pit. Approaching from Mansfield (A617), the roundabout is approximately 3.5 miles from Mansfield, at the roundabout take the first turn left, then following the instruction outlined above.

**Contact: Willy Lane**  
**07790 000770**

**Chambers Farm Wood**

(Lincolnshire)

**Sunday 7 August**

Meet at 10.30am at the Car Park just past the Centre.

GR TF147740. Hoop Lane, Wragby, Lincs. LN8 5JR.

From Wragby, take the B1202 southwards towards Bardney, through the village of Kingthorpe and turn first left (Hoop Lane) and first right along the track to the car park. If this is full, further parking is available further down the track.

Chambers Farm Wood is on the site of a medieval woodland and contains many ancient Limes and a wealth of Butterflies. There is also a Butterfly Garden managed by the Lincolnshire Branch of BC.

Target species: *Brown and Purple Hairstreak*, larval webs of *Marsh Fritillary* caterpillars.

There are toilets and a picnic area, but no cafe.

**Contact: Eliot Taylor**  
**0116 2871677**



**Brown Hairstreak**  
(Photo Eliot Taylor)

# The 2021 Dingy Skipper and Grizzled Skipper Report



Dingy Skipper ((Photo Mark Searle))

## 1. Introduction

For twenty years the Dingy and Grizzled Skipper Project has been the region's flagship conservation project. Nationally and locally during the twenty years up to the turn of the century many species of butterfly were in decline. In the East Midlands the Dingy and Grizzled Skippers were perceived as the two species most at risk. Both species had experienced a decrease in excess of 40% in the number of sites and abundance. From this background, at the turn of the century, the East Midlands Dingy and Grizzled Skipper Project began.

## 2. Survey Work

The COVID19 pandemic led to a significant impact in 2020 as a consequence of nationwide lockdowns that limited the number of surveys being made during the Spring flight season to sites close to home. A relaxation of the lockdown rules during the Spring of 2021 permitted unlimited amounts of exercise outdoors, although clearly some recorders felt reluctance to travel far, with the added concerns about observing social distancing protocols. All

things considered, data was collected widely, although not necessarily evenly across all sites.

In contrast to the favourable weather conditions seen in 2020, which were very kind during the flight season, April 2021 brought unseasonably cool, dry conditions with plenty of sunshine but with daytime temperatures well below normal. May proved to be cool and wet. As a consequence, the numbers were affected more on some sites than others. In recent years, warm conditions have led to a partial second generation of Dingy Skippers during August, however, in 2021 the summer weather pattern was less agreeable and no second brood was reported in the East Midlands.

### Dingy Skipper

Most of the Dingy Skipper sites in our region are to be found in Derbyshire. Generally, counts were rather lower than last year but there were several notable exceptions. Intake Quarry, a large, dormant sandstone quarry, produced numbers well above average in 2020, and again produced the largest count in 2021 (100), although below the previous year's peak. Whitwell Pit Tip and Markham Pit yielded consistently high numbers throughout the flight period, as well as recording

the earliest appearance on 20th April. The spread of the butterfly continues, with a further 9 new sites added to the growing list, although many of these yielded low single figure returns. In 2020, a record high of ten locations produced second-brood sightings in August, however, 2021 yielded none of these late appearances.

In Nottinghamshire, most of the records come from former Colliery sites many of which are now country parks. Maximum counts have typically been in single figures or low double figures. The established colony at Newstead and Annesley Country Park (NACP) with the adjacent Freckland Wood typically produced this sort of count. However, this is a large site and a more extensive survey in 2020 of the Pit Top area showed the population to be much larger and more widespread. Surveys in May 2021, after extensive habitat management efforts over the Winter, further exceeded expectations with a peak of over 100 in the same area. The Old Stocking Yards area further to the east adjacent to the Linby Trail also showed an above average count, making the NACP and Freckland areas an interconnected strong-hold in Nottinghamshire for Dingy Skippers, complemented by high counts of Small Heath, Marbled Whites (likely introduced), Common Blues and a solitary Grizzled Skipper. Here, and at some other places in the region, it has become difficult to justify the separate identity of adjacent populations, but also warrants more extensive site surveys to ensure that this species is not being under recorded (Rufford Colliery, Shirebrook Pit, Calverton Colliery and Cotgrave CP as examples).

In Leicestershire sites are widespread, and surprisingly few in number, particularly in the Rutland region. Dingy Skippers again appeared at Cloud Wood Nature Reserve for the second year running. Good numbers were recorded at Bagworth Heath, Brown's Hill Quarry and Bardon Hill Quarry, with a particularly impressive count (20+) at Holwell Nature Reserve in early June. A few other key quarry sites, such as Ketton, Stonesby, Bloody Oaks and New Lount NR returned low single figure counts. Asfordby Hill close to Melton Mowbray continues to be the strong-hold in the region and is well surveyed, giving a peak of 67 Dingy Skippers, close to last year's high point.



Grizzled Skipper pair ((Photo Mark Searle))

### Grizzled Skipper

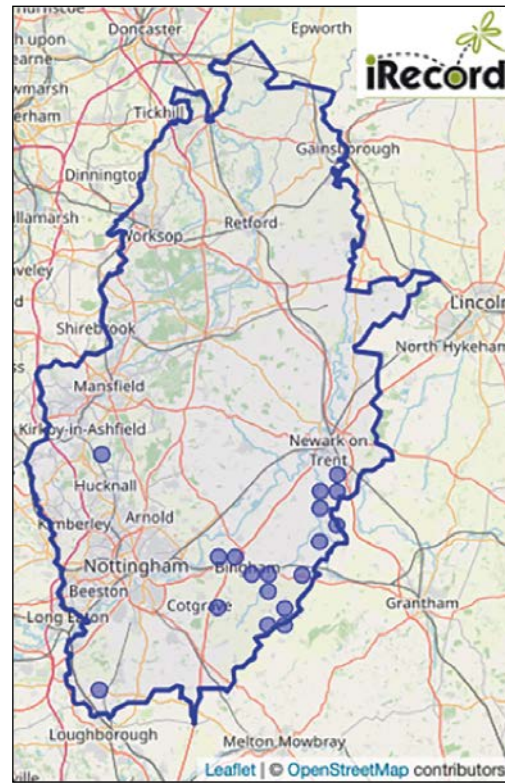
The Grizzled Skipper disappeared from its last known location in Derbyshire almost 20 years ago. In collaboration, the National Trust and EMBC reintroduced the butterfly at Ticknall Lime Yards on the Calke Park Estate in Spring 2018 and again in Spring 2019 by releasing adults on site in two interconnected key areas. In 2021, butterflies were seen there on several occasions during the rather short flight season, with the first appearance as late as 18th May, with a peak of 3 observed in late May. The small population appears to be holding on, but a planned further release in 2021 to strengthen the numbers was curtailed as a suitable donor site could not be identified. A small population has also been established at Whitwell Tip, as a consequence of an unauthorised release. A surprisingly early peak in this population in late April (13 individuals spotted) suggests the possibility that this practice may still be continuing on this site.

In Nottinghamshire, the Grizzled Skipper is largely confined to the southern/eastern corner of the county (see Figure below), representing some of the UK's most northerly sites. The exception to the rule being a solitary observation to the west of the county at the Old Stocking Yards at Newstead, close to the Linby Trail, where there have been very small numbers of sporadic sightings over a number of years. However, the season began with unexpected sightings on 20th April at a new site on Colston Gate Lane to the west of Cotgrave. Grizzled Skippers were recorded in each of its four main population complexes on sites to be found



close to the disused railway lines that run south from Newark and south-easterly from Bingham (over a combined distance of ca. 25 kms), meeting close to the Leicestershire border. Numbers at several of these key sites appear to have been affected by the cold Spring weather. The strong population around Kilvington Lakes maintained its numbers in 2021, the first appearing on time in the last week of April. Significant numbers of Dingy Skippers are now also being recorded in this area. In contrast, the population of Grizzled Skippers close-by at Flawborough showed a decline to low single figures. The traditional strong-hold a few miles away at Staunton Quarry (Notts WT) showed the largest crash (with a peak of only 6 in early June, against scores of 20+ in previous seasons). This site has been opened up in recent years, and during the Covid-19 restrictions in 2020 was extensively used for 'family recreational activities' which may have impacted on habitat around some Skipper-sensitive spots on the site. Elsewhere in the county, a further population hot-spot occurs on the Great Central Railway (GCR) line south of East Leake, and on privately-owned land adjacent to the line. With a small double-figure peak in late May, numbers generally remained in the low single figures and down on the counts seen in previous years, although under-recording in late May could account for this distorted profile. Fortunately, ova-counts at this site in early June, particularly on Agrimony, appeared to be strong. Although the southern-most site at Langar Airfield continues to be of concern, where there has been relentless habitat destruction over the last ten years, ova continue to be found in small numbers to the west (Skydive Langar site), offering some hope that a small population is hanging on. The butterfly is, however, still found to the east of the Airfield on parts of the disused Granby railway line. Further north, the Bingham Linear Way, and the small extension at Saxondale, continue to yield small numbers of both butterflies and ova in a few particularly favoured spots.

Relatively few records were collected in Leicestershire and Rutland this year. With



**Distribution of Grizzled Skippers across Nottinghamshire in 2021** (Courtesy of Steve Mathers, Notts Recorder)

the exception of the small number of Grizzled Skipper sightings at the quarry sites at Bloody Oaks, Ketton and Stonesby, and at Wymondham Rough, Asfordby Hill to the west of Melton Mowbray remains the hot-spot where, as noted above, Dingy Skippers were also seen in large numbers. Although Grizzled Skipper records have been few there is no reason to believe that the situation is significantly different from that of recent years, but more extensive and regular surveying of sites is required to make the data statistically meaningful. Some key sites that have previously returned reasonable numbers, such as the former quarry sites at Ketton, Bloody Oaks and Stonesby, received relatively few (or only a single) recorded visits in 2021.

### 3. Conservation

Many sites that support Dingy Skippers are the subject of management plans that are sympathetic towards the needs of the butterfly. Away from managed reserves the Dingy Skipper continues to thrive and sometimes expand its range. Unmanaged sites are always at risk where vital habitat can easily be lost to invasive plants, particularly silver birch on many of the old colliery sites. Moreover, even where there is a management plan, for example in Country Parks, the emphasis may be on recreational amenities over wildlife conservation. There can be a big difference between meeting the perceived needs of an urban population where the natural environment plays second fiddle and a remote rural spot where wildlife for its own sake is everything. Moreover, some of these larger sites may be significantly under-recorded, as appears to have been the case at the former colliery site at Newstead & Annesley Country Park. The data for 2021 inevitably appear to emphasise some key issues around effective recording and surveying where other overarching pressures (Covid-19 restrictions) have been brought in to play.

Dingy Skipper populations have remained strong at a few key sites in Derbyshire, although double figure counts appeared to be less common in 2021. While there are concerns that some populations of the Dingy Skipper may be under threat from development it is worth bearing in mind that these are mainly populations that did not exist when the Dingy and Grizzled Skipper project was envisaged over twenty years ago. Indeed, the number of new sites in lowland Derbyshire continues to increase (9 new locations in 2021). The impact of climate change on habitat suitability is the biggest unknown, however, it is likely that the Dingy Skipper will continue to survive and thrive at a much stronger level than when this project began. Climate concerns on populations of Grizzled Skipper are less clear as expectations of northern

expansion in Britain are not being met, presenting challenges to habitat management in the East Midlands, at the northern limit of its UK range.

The Covid-19 restrictions over the Winter of 2020/21 scuppered all plans of the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group (NottsBAG) to run volunteer work parties. Over the last 5 years or so these activities, co-ordinated by Chris Jackson, the Biodiversity Officer at Notts County Council (Christopher.Jackson@nottscc.gov.uk), have had a significant impact on habitat management. Fortunately, a full programme of activities resumed in the Autumn/Winter of 2021/22, adhering to covid guidelines. Thanks to a Service Level Agreement (SLA), a partnership between Notts Wildlife Trust (NWT) and Rushcliffe Borough Council (RBC), in the autumn of 2021 a green climber (remote controlled flailer) was used to access steep railway banks at East Leake (one day) and Bingham (two days). These banks are difficult to work effectively by volunteers alone. At Bingham, long term funding has been secured that will enable species-rich grassland progressively to be restored thus improving and increasing suitable habitat for the Grizzled Skipper.

The implementation of the recently funded Midlands Butterfly Conservation Mosaic Project, covering an area that includes all of the East Midlands Region, but stretches from Lincolnshire across to Shropshire, presents significant opportunities to improve habitat in the region through core project funding. Almost a decade ago a substantial grant from SITAtrust made it possible to initiate the successful NottsBAG Grizzled Skipper project. Now the Mosaic Project brings the prospect of more and wider support for Dingy and Grizzled Skippers, as well as other butterflies and moths, here in the East Midlands.

**Mark Searle  
Bill Bacon**

# East Midlands Branch Members Day & AGM 2021

Held on 20 March 2022 at Ravenshead Village Hall, Nottinghamshire

**Minutes of the 2019 AGM:** previously available on the branch website <https://www.eastmidlands-butterflies.org.uk/news.html>, were taken as read, and accepted as a true record. Proposed: Bill Bacon, seconded: Suzanne Halfacre.

*(The 2020 AGM event was not held in person due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but reports were circulated electronically and also made available on the branch website and in the Spring 2021 newsletter).*

**Matters arising from these minutes:**

None.

**Branch Organiser's Address – Jane Broomhead**

Jane welcomed everyone to the AGM and Members Day which should have taken place in November 2021, and almost two and half years ago since the last 'normal' AGM at The Brewery Centre in November 2019. She reflected on the intervening times, including personal pleasures of seeing 5th instar Purple Emperor Caterpillars and of visiting many sites in the East Midlands with Rhona Goddard, our Midlands Regional Officer, for the Severn Trent Funding Project. She praised the many volunteers monitoring and maintaining these sites. With still over two years of the Severn Trent Funding to go, work had already started: in Nottinghamshire scrapes have been made at Ollerton Pit Wood and a corridor is to be created at Bevercotes, both for the Dingy Skipper, and in Derbyshire contractors' work on Markham Vale has been ordered. Thanks were given to Chris Jackson, Notts BAG, and some of our own members for all of their hard work on the Grizzled Skipper sites during the past winter. A special thanks went out to everyone attending for their continued support of East Midlands Butterfly Conservation.

Get well wishes were sent to Pat Orpe who had recently fallen and broken ribs and her ankle, to Adrian Russell, our ex-chairman, who has serious health problems and best wishes to Bill Bacon, another ex-chairman, whose wife is not at all well.

Praise was given to Jim Steele, standing down after the AGM as Derbyshire Conservation Officer, for his dedicated and exceptional conservation work during his time on the committee.

An invitation to anyone who would like to become a committee member was made.

**BRANCH OFFICERS' REPORTS**

**Treasurer – Jane Broomhead**

The final audited accounts for the year ending 31 March 2021 were presented. These had been prepared and checked by Finance at BC Head Office.

The income for the year up to the end of March 2021 was £7,909.00. This included a percentage of subscriptions to BC and £100 donations from talks by Committee Members. There was no sales income during this financial year due to Covid, but £1,996.75 was held in sales stock and a number of events had been booked in 2022 (see Sales and Display Report below for further details).

The expenditure consists of £2,000 which was for work carried out by Notts County Council over the winter of 2019/20 which was not paid until April 2020. The Branch also donated £150 to Shipley Woodside Garden (Derbyshire). Field Equipment £33.25 was for plants for the GS Project at Ticknall Limeyards (Derbyshire). £373 was for the hire of the

Room at Attenborough Nature Reserve for the Nottinghamshire Transect Training Day in March 2020 just before lockdown began. Subscriptions related to the membership of the three Counties' Wildlife Trusts, and Insurance was the branch share of the insurance taken out by Head Office every year to cover field trips and events.

At the end of the financial year total funds amounted to £13,708.14. Although it had been difficult to commit any of the funds, the committee had allocated at least £3,000 towards the GS Project (£2,000 for Notts CC and £1,000 for Leicestershire GS work) for use over the winter of 21/22. The rest of the money was reserved for help with the Severn Trent Funding.

**Membership Secretary – Christine Maughan**

Annual statistics normally produced by Head Office each November were not available in 2021 so no direct comparison with the previous year's figures was possible. Information was based on statistics provided by Butterfly Conservation on 17 March 2022.

For the organisation as a whole, membership had remained fairly static since the November 2020 report, with a national total of just over 42,000 individual members.

Since 1 November 2020, membership within the East Midlands Branch had fallen slightly with a net loss of 29 households. However, the picture for the period since April 2021 showed a net gain of 11 households, so some of the losses have been recouped.

The total branch membership at 17 March 2022 was 1326 households, representing 1876 individual members. The branch is now ranked 9th biggest within Butterfly Conservation by household membership.

At a local level, a breakdown of branch membership by county showed that numbers are fairly evenly split with 33% of our total membership from Derbyshire, 32% from Nottinghamshire, 31% from Leicestershire and Rutland, and the remaining 4% from other areas.

**BUTTERFLY RECORDERS**

**Derbyshire Recorder – Ken Orpe**

*(a powerpoint presentation prepared by Ken, shown in his absence, is summarised below)*

The weather in 2021 had resulted in a poor year with 18 frosts in April, and 17 wet days in May, leading to a very late spring. July had been warm & sunny, but August was disappointing with only 50% the usual amount of sunshine.

Numbers recorded on transects were 30 % down on the previous year. Most species had a poor year, but surprisingly BAP species appeared to do quite well. Small Heath had its highest ever total on a transect of 675 at Hoe Grange Quarry. Dingy Skipper recovered after a slow start with 122 recorded at Hoe Grange Quarry. White-letter and Purple Hairstreaks did quite well owing to a fine July, and Wall did better on transects than in 2020.

East Midlands transects totalled 183 in 2021 (Derbyshire 134, Nottinghamshire 29, Leicestershire 20), now leading the country ahead of Hampshire & Isle of Wight, Surrey, West Midlands and Upper Thames branches. There were 25 new transect routes, again leading other areas.

On the 134 Derbyshire transects, 103,747 butterflies were recorded, with Meadow Brown most common (24% of the total). 32 species were recorded on 2954 individual walks, with an average of 35 butterflies per walk. Over 300 volunteers took part.

Wall was recorded at 26 sites (153 records) with 51 seen at Hoe Grange Quarry. Maps showing national Wall distributions for 2005-9 and 2010-14 indicated a very clear movement to coastal locations, except for areas of higher altitude such as the Peak District.

Hoe Grange Quarry Open Day (Sunday 3 July 2022) was highlighted, with a Moth Watch the previous evening 2 July. Longcliffe Quarries had been awarded a trophy for community involvement by the Institute of Quarrying.



Wider Countryside Butterfly Scheme: there were currently vacancies in three squares – Abney, Pleasley Pit and Radbourne.

To date 15 butterfly banks had been created in the county with limestone chatter provided free of charge by Longcliffe Quarries Ltd.

### **Nottinghamshire Recorder – Stephen Mathers**

*(a pre-recorded video presentation was shown, summarised as follows:)*

#### **A review of 2021**

Approximately 23,000 records had been received from approximately 800 recorders, more concentrated in the southern half of the county

15,500 records had been verified in i-Record

6,500 records had been received from the Big Butterfly Count, and 1,000 for the Garden Butterfly Survey

32 species had been recorded, the most common being Small Tortoiseshell

Records were down about 10% on 2020

30 active transects in the county in 2021, spatially distributed mainly reflecting the population distribution.

In Spring 2021 previously separate Notts Moth and Butterfly Facebook groups were amalgamated, and these now had 170 members, providing the main forum for discussion, news and id queries etc.

A chart of flight times indicated an unusual third brood of Holly Blue in November, and increasingly interrupted hibernation patterns for the overwintering species.

There was further analysis of:

Hairstreaks, of which three of the five national species are recorded in Nottinghamshire (Green, Purple and White-letter).

Brown Skippers – fairly stable populations

Wall – endangered, and possibly extinct in Notts – last sighting in 2020

Dark Green Fritillary – endangered and only one record for 2021

Purple Emperor – expanding to 10 sites in 2021

Looking forward to 2022, casual sightings were invited, sent by email, preferably on excel spreadsheets.

### **Leicestershire and Rutland Recorder – Richard Jeffery**

*(this report was read out in Richard's absence)*

#### **2021 Summary**

The 2021 butterfly season fortunately was not subject to the constraints that curtailed much of the 2020 season and the full quota of butterfly transects had been carried out, including proposed new transects at Bagworth Heath and New Lount Nature Reserve which had to be put on hold the previous year. Both proved to be highly successful and an invaluable addition to the county transect portfolio. The total number of transects carried out in the county, including those organised in conjunction with the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, was 20.

There had been continued expansion of Purple Emperor in the county into, Bradgate Park (Swithland Woods) and Coalville Meadows, with more sightings being reported than ever before.

Meanwhile, the Garden Butterfly Survey and the Big Butterfly Count had continued to grow and produce more records year on year. The BBC in 2021, however, saw more butterfly records submitted than the previous year, but the number of butterflies recorded was fewer than the 2020 season.

The lengthy process of checking, compiling and submitting all of the county butterfly data for the 2020 season had been completed. The county butterfly transects recorded over 8000 butterflies, and the number of records submitted via i-Record, Excel spreadsheets, postal forms, direct email, Garden Butterfly Survey and the Big Butterfly Count totalled just over 25,500.

The 2021 records were currently being compiled and the data would be summarised in the report for the next AGM.

#### **Looking ahead to 2022-23**

It is hoped that, for the 2022 butterfly season, a concerted effort can be made into locating and recording the elusive White Admiral. This species inhabits similar territories to the Silver-washed Fritillary, preferring partly shaded woodland areas with occasional open rides, and where its host plant, wild Honeysuckle, thrives. White Admiral could, and should, be present in the county.

Additionally, more focus is to be placed on recording White-letter Hairstreak in the county, with particular attention being paid to surveying some of the key Parks in Leicester city centre, in conjunction with the city council, where the butterfly has been recorded in the past and Elm trees, the host plant, are present.

For the 2022 butterfly transect season it was hoped that the following new transects would be up and running:

Burbage Common and Woods

Bradgate Park – Old John Transect (LRWT)

Bradgate Park – Newtown Linford Transect (LRWT)

Donington le Heath Meadow and Woods

Loughborough University Arboretum

Twycross Zoo Meadows

An appeal was put out for new volunteers to assist with recording on new and existing transects from members across the county, and also from their circle of family and friends. Full training in butterfly ID and recording methodology would be given.

Looking forward to 2023, an additional transect at Bradgate Park (Swithland Woods), a second transect at Bardon Hill Quarry to incorporate the newly planted heathland and the area adjacent to the new quarry, and a transect at the LRWT flagship reserve at Ketton Quarry were being planned.

Although online recording such as i-Record is becoming more popular, traditional formats such as spreadsheets are equally acceptable, and all records are gratefully received. Thanks were expressed to all those who had recorded and submitted butterfly data throughout 2021, as were best wishes for the season ahead.

### **Grizzled/Dingy Skipper Project Officer – Mark Searle**

Results were not for general dissemination, but information could be obtained by contacting Mark Searle directly.

### **Moth Recorder – Leicestershire – Adrian Russell**

No report had been received owing to illness.

## **CONSERVATION**

### **Derbyshire Conservation Officer – Jim Steele**

#### **General:**

- Endeavouring to obtain a summary of a presentation made recently by Phil Sterling to Derbyshire County Council and DWT about Roadside Verges for butterflies for circulation to the committee.
- Attended various site meetings associated with Mosaic Project, Habitat Management (Derbys and Notts)
- Attended two meetings associated with possible National Trust/BC Silver-studded Blue Re-introduction Project at NT Clumber
- Organised and attended Grizzled Skipper/Ticknall Limeyards BC/NT Re-introduction Project, Core Team Meeting

#### **Projects:**

- Bennerley Viaduct - supporting and advising on efforts to create a large, south-facing butterfly bank on the access ramp between the canal and the newly opened Viaduct walkway; seeding now taken place. Also D R Elms.

- Shipley Community Garden - supporting small Butterfly Bank; Wildflower meadow; Big Butterfly Count; to present a talk on butterflies this Spring
- Mead Project, Heanor - continued support and advice for Woodland Trust Staff; dedicated areas for butterflies; supporting newly formed Transect
- Weleda - ongoing support of butterfly habitat and transect; Shipley
- Coton Park LNR - visiting with South Derbyshire District Council and Burton Conservation Volunteers; management of habitat for residual Dingy Skipper colony, Common Blue, Small Heath
- Swadlincote Woodland - support and advice for large Butterfly Bank and re-planting, management
- The Forge, Ironville - support and advice for habitat management for Dingy Skipper, Common Blue and Small Heath
- Jim Mart Reserve, Kelstedge - support and advice of habitat, including two Butterfly Banks
- Whistlewood, Melbourne - community project; butterfly walk; habitat advice
- Lloist, Whitwell - company Biodiversity Area; support and advice for habitat management; two, large Butterfly Banks
- Little Eaton - local community project; visit and habitat advice
- Disease-resistant Elms – small number of new plantings; advice as requested

#### Individuals seeking advice for their land:

- Couple near Ambergate
- Lady at Stonebroom, near Alfreton
- Chris and Sheila Ragg at Darley Dale - their garden and a new community project, in their infancy, on publicly owned land nearby
- Person on farm near Aston-on-Trent - D R Elms; habitat advice
- Couple on farm near Kelstedge

#### Planning Applications:

- Lower Somercotes, Amber Valley Rugby Club
- Langley Mill, Bridge Street - brownfield site; Dingy Skipper
- Manners, Ilkeston - brownfield site; Dingy Skipper
- Whitwell Tip - ongoing; superb brownfield site; Holding Objection still in place
- Oxcroft Tip - ongoing; excellent brownfield site; Dingy Skipper stronghold; visited and walked land with landowner
- Stanton Iron Works - ongoing; excellent brownfield site; Dingy Skipper; invited and participating on pre-planning application Community Liaison Group; first development proposals will destroy main area for Dingy Skipper - submitted BCEM written response.
- Crich Quarry

#### Nottingham/Leicestershire Conservation Officer – Melanie Penson

Work on the following projects was outlined:

- initiated the Clearwings and Forester Moth Project, which was unanimously approved at the September 2021 committee meeting.
- attending site visits with Chris Jackson and Emma Gilbert (Notts BAG) at Green Hairstreak sites and mentoring Emma with her writing of the GH Species Action Plan for Notts.
- attending multiple site visits across all four of our counties with other committee members; assessing habitat conditions and management work for priority butterflies and moths as part of the Severn Trent Butterfly Mosaics Project. Monitoring to be carried out during the 2022 season.
- providing management advice to Newark & Sherwood DC / Miner2Major on Sherwood Heath, Sconce & Devon Park and Vicar Water regarding moths, especially clearwings.

#### Regional Conservation Manager

– **Rhona Goddard**

(the following report was read out in Rhona's absence)

#### **Butterfly Mosaics - Severn Trent Water** **Year 1 - Project highlights across the Midlands**

- 9Ha/KM of habitat management completed at 30 sites, completed by contractors and 14 volunteer work parties
- Visited and/or identified work at 42 sites
- Habitat management works completed this year will benefit seven priority species found in the Midlands (Grizzled Skipper, Dingy Skipper, Grayling, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Wood White, Brown Hairstreak and White-letter Hairstreak).
- Number of project sites increased from 65 to 77, following site visits over summer 2021
- Additional funding from Severn Trent Water to monitor approx 30 sites this summer across the Midlands

#### **Year 1 - East Midlands region highlights**

- 2.9 Ha of habitat management competed at 11 sites, completed by contractors and 10 volunteer work parties
- Visited and/or identified work at 20 sites
- Works will benefit Dingy Skipper, and Grizzled Skipper
- 6 sites added to project

Very positive meeting with Sustrans re: potential to work in partnership, in Nottinghamshire, especially in Bingham area. Site visit planned for early spring.

Very positive meeting with Reserves Manager for Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, happy for us to monitor DS and GS on their sites in the summer. Suggested meeting again in July/Aug to discuss results and habitat management planned for the winter. Copies of management plans for a number of their reserves now obtained.



**Attendance at Branch events/site meetings:**

Prees Heath branch visit - July 5th

Hoe Grange open day – July 3rd

L&RWT field visits - May 25th

**Survey days planned (April to July)**

April - 19th and 21st

May - 3rd or 6th, 19th (Ticknall Limeyards & other sites) & 30th

June - availability limited this month due to holiday and student placement supervision

July - 1st and 20th (and possibly 22nd)

**Grizzled Skipper Reintroduction Ticknall Limeyards, Derbyshire**

Unfortunately, if we need to top-up the GS population at Ticknall this year, the site in Lincolnshire is unlikely to be suitable because: GS population was very small last year and limited habitat management work completed this winter (only one work party).

No contact yet made with Lincolnshire branch about the idea of taking individuals this year, but it is possible to do so.

Obtaining permission from landowner to collect individuals will be difficult due to changes in their policies.

*At this point in the meeting the Branch Organiser read out an official complaint from Ken Orpe against Rhona Goddard, relating to the continuing lack of response to emails, to the lack of monetary compensation promised for work already carried out, and to sites visited during the summer where work had been promised but nothing had happened. He asked for a vote of no confidence in her performance. The procedure for this to take place was questioned by a member from the floor, and it was agreed that advice would need to be sought from Head Office. However, Jane Broomhead confirmed that some of the points outlined in the above report required clarification since there appeared to be inaccuracies, and although Rhona had been ill, these points could not be excused. Jim Steele commented that Rhona*

*had too great a workload due to the area covered by her remit, and needed support. The branch continued to fight for an East Midlands Regional Officer, living locally.*

*Since the AGM Dave Wainwright, BC Head of Northern Conservation, has apologised for the lack of response to emails. He indicated that this was partly due to the fact that he wanted to Rhona to not take on too large a workload due to her recent illness. He was aware that the East Midlands had a serious problem with work not taking place on sites as quickly as he would have liked. Rhona has been in touch with Ken and they have arranged to visit some of the Derbyshire sites he was concerned about over the next few weeks. The Branch will continue to monitor how progress continues with regard to the Severn Trent funding.*

**Field Trips Organiser's Report – Max Maughan**

Due to Covid problems it had been decided only to run field trips in July and August last year.

6 trips had been organised. Unfortunately, the trip to Aston Rowant was cancelled due to bad weather. The average number of people attending was 9.

The most species seen were at Poulter Park with a good count of 15.

Thanks were expressed to all the leaders of the trips for their hard work.

The programme for 2022 was confirmed as complete but an invitation was made for any additional trips that might be proposed.

**Newsletter Editor – Eliot Taylor**

As usual two issues of the newsletter were produced in 2021 - in Spring and Autumn.

The Spring issue ran to 24 pages rather than the usual 20 pages, and featured the minutes of the 2020 'AGM' (carried out by email) as well as:

- an article by Richard Jeffrey on the changing face of butterfly recording.

- The 2021 Field Trip Programme
- Two articles by Jim Steele on The Young People's Forest at Mead, and the new Environment Bill in Parliament.
- Melanie Penson supplied a piece on aberrations in British butterflies and an accompanying book review
- Mark Seale gave advice for hunting Hairstreak ova in Winter

The Autumn issue was later than usual for a number of reasons, including that the editor had contracted Covid, but as the branch AGM was postponed until Spring 2022 this was not a major problem.

This issue contained:

- Field Trip 2021 Reports.
- Reports on the Open Gardens Scheme.
- Gary Atkins celebrated Ken Orpe's 40 years of recording.
- A joint article by Steve Mathers, Denis Dell and Richard Jeffery covered the return of the Purple Emperor to our region.
- A contribution from Brenda Shore of The Friends of Little Eaton Canal, highlighting their good conservation work.
- An article from Melanie Penson about the Clearwing and Forester Moth Project.
- Rhona Goddard's article on the Butterfly Mosaics Project in partnership with Seven Trent.

The copy deadline for the Spring 2022 edition was confirmed as Friday 1st April.

A flyer for the Hoe Grange Quarry Open Day had been produced, and display boards featuring Day Flying Moths, Night Flying Moths, Dragonflies and Wildflowers, also for Hoe Grange Quarry, had been created.

**Publicity Officer – Gary Atkins**

Publicity had been relatively low key over the past two years, not helped by Covid eliminating

a number of events that would normally have taken place (not least two Hoe Grange Quarry open days!).

Only a handful of releases had been issued by BC HQ this during the year – there were two in March (the first one covering a new report on the state of Britain's larger moths, the other a UKBMS review of 2020's "good year"), one in June, of local import, that spotlighted the BC / Severn Trent three-year conservation project, and the usual promotion, then results round-up, regarding the Big Butterfly Count.

There was little significant coverage locally from any of these, which was particularly disappointing regarding the Severn Trent agreement, though the hope might be for coverage as individual initiatives within the overall project are launched and begin to produce results. Usually, local media outlets request interviews about the Big Butterfly Count, but there appeared to have been none in 2021.

Another 'hardy annual' that generally generates local publicity is the aforementioned Hoe Grange Quarry open day, but once again this did not happen in 2021, though the site was the focus of an excellent video that went on our website, and may be used more widely, and a 2021 calendar featuring photographs including those by our members.

A piece in the Newark Advertiser regarding the discovery of Grizzled Skippers at Bantcock Quarry had been noted by Bill Bacon, and a piece was included on the EMBC website on the Big Butterfly Count event we put our name to at the National Stone Centre. All in all, coverage had been thinner than usual.

Looking forward, 2022 should provide wider scope for media interest as the Covid shadow fades – specifically with a growth in activity associated with the Severn Trent investment, such as the Clearwing Project, the reprise of Hoe Grange Quarry open day, plus interesting conservation projects and even the more thorny conservation issues surrounding planning applications.

**Sales & Display Organiser - Jane Broomhead**

The following events had been booked for 2022:

Burbage Common - 8 May

Hoe Grange Quarry Open Day – 3 July

Global Bird Fair, Oakham Showground  
– 15-17 July (this was taking the place of the former Bird Fair, but the branch was to cover the cost of the stand this first year, rather than HO).

**Butterfly Distribution Maps Co-ordinator – Christine Maughan**

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.

**Webmaster – Neil Pinder**

Neil was applauded for his excellent work on the branch website.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

In accordance with branch rules, the three longest serving committee members stood down and offered themselves for re-election. These were Christine Maughan as Membership Secretary, Pat Orpe as Assistant Butterfly Recorder for Derbyshire and Suzanne Halfacre as Committee Member.

These were re-elected together under a single nomination.

Proposed by Melanie Penson, seconded by John Green.

Adrian Russell had stepped down from the committee during the year due to ill health, and Steve Mathers has also stepped down from the main committee but remains an associate committee member.

**Any Other Business:**

Brian Hobby asked for clarification about the official moth recorder for Derbyshire following the death of Dave Budworth of Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire Entomological Society. It was pointed out that the branch was not affiliated to DANES and that Mick Ball was still officially Moth Officer for Derbyshire. This question would be investigated further with Head Office and an answer posted on the branch website.

*There being no further business the meeting finished at 11.50am.*

*This was followed by:*

- a presentation by Melanie Penson – ‘East Midlands Clearwing & Forester Moth Project 2021-23’ – part of the Severn Trent ‘Big Nature Boost’, and
- Slides of Garden Moths by Christine Maughan

*After lunch Chris Jackson of the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group gave a talk on ‘10 Years of Volunteering for the Grizzled Skipper’.*

*This was followed by Members’ photographs.*

The meeting closed at 3.00pm.

**Christine Maughan**

**East Midlands Butterfly Conservation Committee Members****EAST MIDLANDS MAIN COMMITTEE****Branch Organiser:**

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*If anyone would like to apply for this post please contact Jim*

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**Regional Conservation Manager - Midlands**

Rhona Goddard **Tel:** 01746 762364  
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At the present time the Derbyshire Moth Officer, Mick Ball, is unwell and further details will be posted on the EM web site when available.

*If you would like to become a Committee Member please contact the Branch Organiser.*

The views expressed within this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor, the Branch or of Butterfly Conservation nationally.

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**Welcome To Our New Branch Members**

The Committee extends a warm welcome to new members who have joined the branch since the last newsletter. We look forward to meeting as many as possible at future Branch Events and Field Trips. At 17 March 2022 the Branch has 1326 Household members representing a figure of 1876 Individual members.







Chequered Skipper at Fineshade Woods (Photo Robin Perry)



Six-belted Clearwing (Photo Dave Wright)



Clifton Nonpareil (Photo Dave Wright)



Comma (Photo Rachel Kirkley)



Meadow Brown (Photo Rachel Kirkley)



Purple Emperor (Photo Robin Perry)