

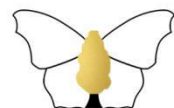
Butterfly Conservation

Cumbria Branch



Newsletter 37

Autumn 2018



Butterfly
Conservation
50th Anniversary

Here are some butterflies you can see right now!



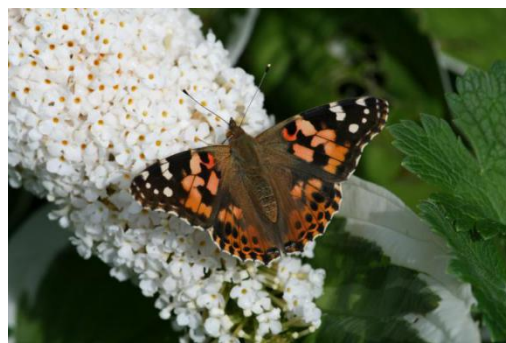
Brimstone



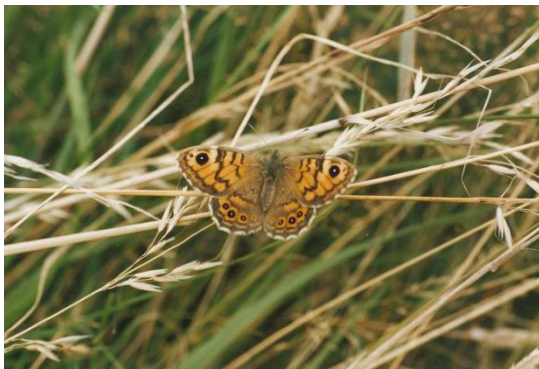
Comma



Green Veined White



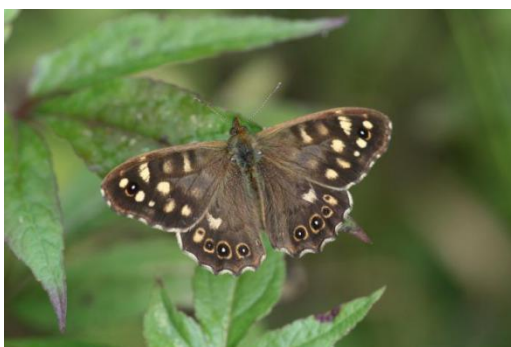
Painted Lady



Wall Brown



Scotch Argus



Speckled Wood



Red Admiral

MESSAGE FROM.....our BRANCH CHAIRMAN

Welcome to the autumn edition of our Cumbria BC newsletter. We have another 'golden' 50th anniversary issue with a wide range of articles including three field-trip reports by members who travelled from Yorkshire, Co Durham and Somerset to enjoy our Cumbrian butterflies.

What a 50th anniversary.....the hottest and driest since 1976. After a long cold winter and a short spring, Pearl-bordered Fritillary emerged remarkably early. Duke of Burgundy and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary soon followed with all three national rarities doing quite well in their favourite haunts. Dingy Skipper, Small Blue and Large Heath also did well but all were overshadowed by the Marsh Fritillary. Dark Green Fritillary emerged early in mid-June with some sites doing better than others and High Brown Fritillary soon followed but once again in low numbers.

As I write this at the end of July [accompanied by thunder and heavy rain!] many grasslands in Cumbria have hardly had rain for ten weeks and now look more like deserts. Already there are impacts:

- *Most adults have been more active, visible and probably more numerous...hopefully leading to more mating and egg-laying.

- *Flying starts earlier in the day and may finish earlier.....this and the last point could skew our sightings/data.

- *Some species have by necessity changed their nectaring/feeding habits eg. 'Hair-streaks' have become less arboreal and partly as a consequence WLHairstreak have been reported in record numbers.

- *Hot weather encourages some species eg DGF to disperse more readily.

- *With less wild flower nectar garden flowers are especially important.

- *Some caterpillar food plants are desiccated: this may lead to starvation. We already have reports of stunted growth and 'dwarf' butterflies.

- *Grass growth was checked by the long winter and now by drought. This may impact on grass feeders but may help violets that are overgrown by grass.

- *Flight periods have been brought forward and shortened, which may put species 'out of sync' with their food plants, also expect some extra generations!



There have been some national press reports that butterfly and moth numbers could now 'crash' as they did after 1976. It is too soon to say but our recorders and butterfly and moth 'sightings' are needed more than ever.

Great news is that Martin Wain from BC together with Martin Chadwick, Tom Dunbar and David Eastlick have been successful in their application to the HLF



for £10,000 towards work to help secure the future of the Cumbrian Duke of Burgundy. This will allow us to appoint a temporary project officer to oversee this work.....more on this in the next newsletter.

Finally please look at the SLIP included with this issue. **ALL our members that have provided e-mails with BC will receive an ELECTRONIC COPY of our NEWSLETTER starting with the SPRING ISSUE 2019.....UNLESS YOU FIRST CONTACT** our newsletter editor by e-mail [preferably] or by telephone and request a paper copy. With higher postal and printing costs many branches have already moved towards electronic copies to make substantial savings: money that we can put towards conservation. Best wishes,

Chris Winnick.

Cumbria Branch Wednesday and Sunday Work Parties 2018-2019

This year the Sunday and Wednesday work parties are combined into a single chronological list.

Meet at 10:00 at the parking places defined by the grid reference. For full directions, please see the Branch website.

BC has altered its web site layout. Go to www.butterfly-conservation.org and click events (top right) on the home page. This will take you to a page that asks you to select a county--Cumbria. This opens to a full list of events. Check the web site for last minute changes or ring Chris Winnick 01539 728254 or David Eastlick 01539 532076.

Dress appropriately for Cumbrian weather, boots, waterproofs, warm clothing and bring lunch and drinks. We supply tools and protective items.

Sunday 9 September 2018 10:00 **Yewbarrow, Witherslack**

Directions: for full directions please see website. Grid reference SD 437859

Contact Chris Winnick 01539 728254

Wednesday 12 September 2018 10:00 **Holme Stinted Pastures, Burton-in-Kendal**

Directions: for full directions please see website. Approximate Grid reference SD 535778 **Contact:** Chris Winnick 01539 728254

Wednesday 26 September 2018 10:00 **Wartbarrow, Allithwaite**

Directions: for full directions please see website. Please do not park in Quarry Lane as it causes friction. Grid reference SD 387767 **Contact:** Martin Chadwick 01539 532553

Sunday 14 October 2018 10:00 **Yewbarrow, Witherslack**

Directions: for full directions please see website. Grid reference SD 437859

Contact: Chris Winnick 01539 728254

Wednesday 10 October 2018 10:00 **Wartbarrow/Adjacent Land, Allithwaite**

Directions: for full directions please see website. Please do not park in Quarry Lane as it causes friction. Grid reference SD 387767 **Contact:** Martin Chadwick 01539 532553

Wednesday 24 October 2018 10:00 **Holme Stinted Pastures, Burton-in-Kendal**

Directions: for full directions please see website. Approximate Grid reference SD 535778 **Contact:** Chris Winnick 01539 728254

Sunday 4 November 2018 10:00 **Farrer's Allotment, Whitbarrow**

Directions: for full directions please see website. Grid reference SD 462867

Contact: Chris Winnick 01539 728254

Wednesday 7 November 2018 10:00 **Township Plantation, Whitbarrow**

Directions: for full directions please see website. Grid reference SD 454884

Contact: Chris Winnick 01539 728254

Wednesday 21 November 2018 10:00 **Township Plantation, Whitbarrow**

Directions: for full directions please see website. Grid reference SD 454884

Contact: Chris Winnick 01539 728254

Sunday 9 December 2018 10:00 **Farrer's Allotment, Whitbarrow**

Directions: for full directions please see website. Grid reference SD 462867

Contact: Chris Winnick 01539 728254

Wednesday 5 December 2018 10:00 **Farrer's Allotment, Whitbarrow**

Directions: for full directions please see website. Grid reference SD 462867

Contact: Chris Winnick 01539 728254

Wednesday 19 December 2018 10:00 **TBC** see website

Wednesday 9 January 2019 10:00 **Witherslack Woods**

Directions: for full directions please see website. Grid reference SD 437859

Contact: Chris Winnick 01539 728254

Sunday 13 January 2019 10:00 **Witherslack Woods**

Directions: for full directions please see website. Grid reference SD 437859

Contact: Chris Winnick 01539 728254

Wednesday 23 January 2019 10:00 **Marble Quarry, Beetham**

Directions: for full directions please see website. Grid reference SD 496781

Contact: Chris Winnick 01539 728254

Wednesday 6 February 2019 10:00 **Marble Quarry, Beetham**

Directions: for full directions please see website. Grid reference SD 496781

Contact: Chris Winnick 01539 728254

Sunday 10 February 2018 10:00 **Hampfield Allotment, Lindale**

Directions: for full directions please see website. Grid reference SD 404803

Contact: David Jackson 01539 533322 or Chris Winnick 01539 728254

Wednesday 20 February 2019 10:00 **Wakebarrow, Whitbarrow**

Directions: for full directions please see website. Grid reference SD 454884

Contact: Chris Winnick 01539 728254

Wednesday 6 March 2019 10:00 **Hampfield Allotment, Lindale**

Directions: for full directions please see website. Grid reference SD 404803

Contact: David Jackson 01539 533322 or Chris Winnick 01539 728254

Wednesday 20 March 2019 10:00 **Wakebarrow, Whitbarrow**

Directions: for full directions please see website. Grid reference SD 454884

Contact: Chris Winnick 01539 728254

Wednesday 3 April 2019 10:00 **TBC** see website

Sunday 10 March 2019 10:00 **TBC** see website

Small Copper - a little butterfly with big impact.

Our newsletter cover this time features a 'common' but not so often seen butterfly of flowery hillsides, sand dunes and waste ground. It was first described in 1699 as the 'Small Golden Black-Spotted Meadow Butterfly' which is not catchy but a good description!



It overwinters as a caterpillar on

the food plant sorrel, before emerging as an adult in April/May. Several broods may follow the last of which may fly into September. Once seen never forgotten, it is the only UK butterfly with the flash of bright orange copper.



Though widespread it is usually seen in low numbers and is badly affected by poor summers.

The male is very territorial and fearlessly sees off any intruder into his patch however large.

In the same family as the Blues and Hairstreaks, its closest

relative the Large Copper died out in the UK in 1864.

Good places to see them:

Workington wind farm [NX996303](#): Drigg Dunes [SD050985](#):

RSPB Hodbarrow Reserve [SD184783](#): inland sites include Latterbarrow [SD439828](#) and Rickerby Park in Carlisle [NY407569](#).

Karen McLellan

Small Blues in 2018.

It's 16th June as I write this and after a terrific three week flight season the weather has now turned windy, wet and a lot cooler. It might yet buck up a bit for Summer but for the Small Blues my guess is that's it for another year. Hopefully a few will still be flying but the peak is well over and even the last Marsh Fritillary in my breeding cage died overnight and all was



quiet again in the cage. Still, on the bright side eggs were laid and the same goes for Small Blues as on the last hot day on Monday 11th June at Workington there were dozens of Small Blues out in force and most of them were egg laying. The males had done their job and most were gone although a few were still around making a nuisance of themselves by 'buzzing' egg laying females. The females lay eggs singly as they bob from one Kidney Vetch flower head to another – fascinating to watch and enjoyed by all our volunteers on 11th June on our annual tour of the sites we worked on over last Winter.

That annual day out is such a treat when those who have toiled in all weather all Winter can have an enjoyable day out seeing at first hand the benefits of what THEY did. I can't thank the Workington Nature Partnership enough as without them we would not be able to manage anywhere near enough habitat. When visiting our last site of the day one remarked that there were more Small Blues on a small site we hadn't worked on than there were on the sites we had worked on. Sobering thought but a constructive comment nevertheless. The point is though that the sites we work on are all sites which in some way have been decimated by development, threat of development, vandalism or just sheer lack of management resulting in habitat becoming too rank to support Kidney Vetch and thus Small Blue butterflies. Our work is to restore that habitat, create more and support the smaller satellite sites by having 'core' colonies nearby.

Overall then it has been a great flight season with numbers of Small Blues holding up well almost everywhere. Around Maryport Harbour numbers were greater than we've recorded there for many years and volunteer Stuart Medland mapped the distribution well for us, even finding a good presence down at the far south end of Maryport Coastal Park near Risehow. In other parts of the known range which is Workington and down to Whitehaven both Robert Parks and Richard Pratt have again done a great job mapping out and counting every nook and cranny. Anne Douglas did her usual 'walkabout' in and around the Port of Workington area and the A596 corridor with once again quite pleasing results. Again, thanks to all for doing such a fine job in such a short concentrated flight period. Putting the results of all their work on to a database for the future is priceless.

I won't go into detail on all Small Blue sites but a few are worthy of mention for one reason or another. The well known Oldside windfarm site frankly did not have as good a season as I hoped for. Numbers were up on the previous year but the good thing is that the habitat work we have done is working and both the abundance of Kidney Vetch and the natural regeneration of other wildflowers blending in is good to see. It will take time for the Small Blue colony there to build up but the good 2018 flight and egg laying season will help. The other good thing is that Small Blues there looked to be spread over a wider area than before.

The ex steelworks site where we negotiated some protected (from house building) habitat did not produce as many Small Blues as we would have liked



but again, it takes time for habitat to reach peak condition after so much disturbance. Kidney Vetch is growing well in patches but a combination of a long Winter immediately followed by a very dry hot few weeks meant that growing conditions

of newly seeded or self-seeded areas suffered. There was growth but it will be late Summer before those plants show through better. Room for improvement yes, but patience is required.

At our other 'core' colony at Maryport numbers of Small Blues were at their highest for many years and spread widely as well. A visit to Maryport in peak season in June 2018 was quite a treat.

Elsewhere numbers at outlying areas and other satellite sites held up well such as on Hutton Place and on Lowca Banks. There were several seen on patches of Kidney Vetch on the main railway line when looking through the fence, so with lots of eggs laid and a good flight season it looks set fair for next year.

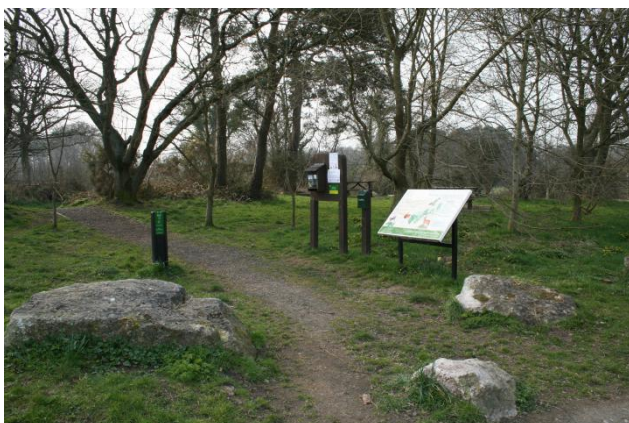
Don't like finishing on a downside note but there are still 'planning' threats to some of our sites although we have to be positive and believe common-sense will prevail. So we won't end on a downside note after all because together with Cumbria Wildlife Trust we are working on a Pollinator Project which is to go ahead in West Cumbria and that can only be very positive for butterflies in the area. More to follow in the next newsletter.

Steve Doyle

Ed's Note: Great news...2nd generation Small Blues now flying on Ormsgill Slag banks.

Visit to Finglandrigg & the West Cumbrian Coast June 2018

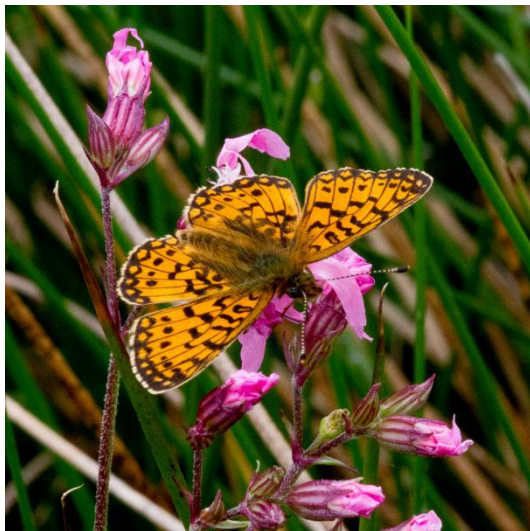
Phil and I set off from the North East of England in rather murky conditions. We were a little apprehensive as the latest weather forecast for Cumbria depicted cloud and rain. As a Cumbrian I can appreciate how quickly the



weather can change in this part of the world so undeterred we journeyed over the Pennines through the showers to meet our leader for the day, Steve Doyle from Cumbria Butterfly Conservation, ably assisted by Chris Winnick, Chair of the Cumbria and Lancashire Butterfly Conservation branches.

Steve greeted a small but keen group for a walk through Finglandrigg Wood which is a National Nature Reserve managed by Natural England situated about 7.5 miles east of Carlisle. Steve was a fountain of knowledge on both butterflies and football; particularly Marsh Fritillary, Small Blue, Carlisle United and Montrose Football Club! Against a backdrop of singing summer visitors Steve explained that the dry, overcast but bright conditions would be ideal for observing our target species of Marsh Fritillary.

Unlike the weather forecast, he was absolutely right with a hundred seen from the footpath as we ambled through the meadow. Several were observed mating and egg-laying. Steve enthusiastically explained the history and current status of this enigmatic butterfly whilst he showed us how to recognise primary and secondary egg batches. He went on to say that the caterpillars, like those of the Small Blue, are cannibalistic.



Some freshly emerged Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries glided past on fast wing beats low across the tussocky marsh grass before settling to sunbathe and feed. Large Skippers and a couple of Wall Brown were added together with Silver Y moths. Common Buzzard and Spotted Flycatcher (heard) provided an avian interest. Northern Marsh orchid was located near the car park.

It is abundantly clear that without Butterfly Conservation and Natural England together with the incredible voluntary work undertaken by people like Steve, the Marsh Fritillary would not exist here and Finglandrigg would be missing the jewel in its crown.

We wandered back to our cars for a quick lunch break before Steve led the convoy to a coastal strip adjacent to Maryport Marina for our next target species, the Small Blue. We were not disappointed with up to thirty Small Blues providing the party with excellent views of this delicate butterfly. Some were mating and egg-laying. Whilst many of the males were worn, there were plenty

of recently emerged females and a few bright males to allow all to see the contrast between the dark upperwings and pale underwings. There were plenty of its more flamboyant relative the Common Blue patrolling the area and they too were mating. (With all this promiscuous behaviour it is wonder this trip did not receive an X rating). Numerous Small Heaths danced across the top of the long grass and recently emerged Large Skippers were observed alongside a single Wall Brown. Burnet chrysalis and Blue-tailed Damselfly were noted. We were continually serenaded by Skylarks and a pair of Stonechat gave the group close views as they perched on the gorse giving a clicking call, like stones knocking together.

Steve and Chris decided to squeeze in a further visit to Oldside Wind Farm at



Workington. We were certainly getting value for money. The sunny periods encouraged plenty of Small Blue activity with up to forty seen. An excellent supporting cast included thirty Common Blue, six Dingy Skipper, Large Skippers, Small Heaths and Mother Shipton.

Northern Marsh Orchid was abundant together with hybrid

Northern Marsh/Common Spotted as well as some early Common Spotted at both Maryport and Workington sites. It was at this latter site that Steve introduced us to the Isle of Man Cauliflower, a scarce plant that makes its home on the shoreline here. Further afield across the tranquil Irish Sea one could see the Isle of Man and the imposing hulk of Snaefell.

The threat of development at both the Maryport and Workington brownfield sites is never far away. Steve explained a lot about the planning proposals and the difficult negotiations with Developers and the mitigating measures put in place to help safeguard some parts of these sites. Steve also explained what goes on 'behind the scenes' with the creation of numerous scrapes dug out and seeded with the all-important kidney vetch, the egg laying and larval food plant for Small Blue. Thanks to the enormous voluntary work undertaken by Butterfly Conservation and the Workington Nature Partnership and other volunteers under guidance from Steve, the future for Small Blue and a host of

other species including birds, reptiles and flora will hopefully remain secure for a lot more years to come.

A very enjoyable trip providing an opportunity to make friends, explore new



sites to inspire future trips and importantly learn from experts like Steve and Chris. On this note, I would like to take the opportunity to say many thanks to Steve and Chris for all their efforts.

Finally for all those NE members it is worth reminding you that you

are always very welcome on any of the Cumbrian and Lancashire trips. They do provide an excellent opportunity to see both northern and southern based species. I am already looking forward to further visits and exploring this area. There is always something new to see and learn.

David Phillips

My Steep Learning Curve! The Comma Butterfly



There are two forms of Comma – the ‘typical’ darker *Polygonia c-album* and the *hutchinsoni* or brighter ‘golden form’ *C-album hutchinsoni*.

The Comma normally has two annual broods. In the UK there are two peak abundance times April, and July to mid-September. A

proportion of the first brood (‘normal’ form)

are not sexually mature. They feed up and hibernate early. The remainder of this first brood of emerging adults are short lived. They mate quickly, lay eggs and die. These breeding individuals (*hutchinsoni* form) look different to their early hibernating ‘cousins’ (especially on the underwing); they are lighter in colour and have less scalloped wing edges. They can represent up to 40% of

the mid-summer emergence. That varies year to year. These *hutchinsoni* produce 'normal-looking' adults in late summer (August/ September). They join their earlier summer hibernating 'cousins' in winter hibernation. Both forms emerge the following spring.

Summer *hutchinsoni* numbers are not determined solely by genetic make-up. Length of daylight hours as well as whether larval/ pupal development largely fall in lengthening/ shortening day-length (either side of 21st June) is also a determining factor. Larvae and pupae that develop in lengthening daylight hours produce more *hutchinsoni* that summer; the converse is also the case. A late spring will cause fewer *hutchinsoni*. Average temperatures and foodplant conditions can also be thrown into the mix! The relationships between all these variables are not fully understood.



Swedish lepidopterist S. Nylen carried out a controlled study of the effect on the Comma of daylight-hours and day-length. Results showed under controlled captive condition (lab) the Comma larvae can switch between the two forms – under 12 hours light, all develop as *Polyommatus C-album*; with 18+ hours daily light conditions 90% emerge as golden *hutchinsoni* commas.

In the wild, early or late springs can determine which side of mid-summer day the larvae complete their cycle i.e. which 'camp' they fall into. Also if that early spring is especially warm the early caterpillars develop more quickly increasing the likelihood of cycle completion in increasing light conditions rather than diminishing. Hey presto! more *hutchinsoni* develop. An early warm spring enables larvae and pupae to develop quickly in lengthening daylight hours.

I thought I had acquired a reasonable understanding of the above process. I then read in the literature (Thomas & Lewington) that *hutchinsoni* can switch forms – again not fully understood. I leave that to you to explore. I need to get out in the field to spread my wings!

Check out <http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/species.php?species=c-album> for excellent images of both forms.



Further reading:

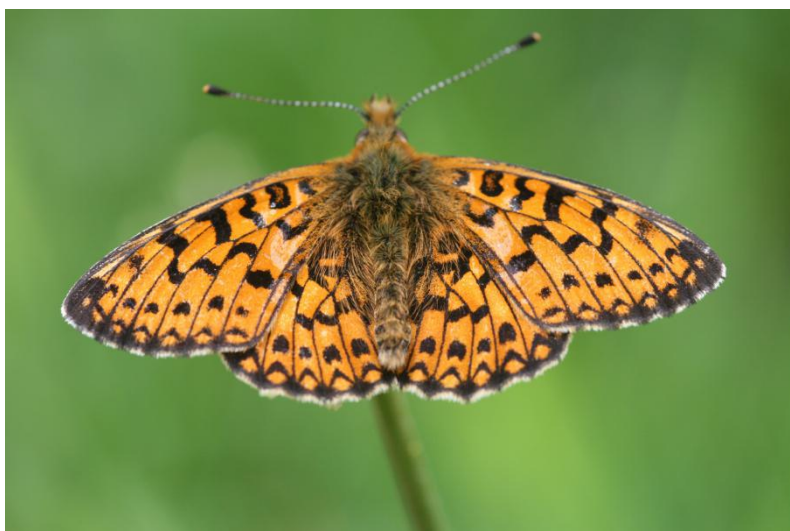
The Millennium Atlas – Warren, Fox, Asher etc

The Butterflies of Britain & Ireland – Thomas & Lewington

Tom Dunbar

Visit to Holme Stinted Pastures and Holmepark Fell 29th May 2018

In glorious sunshine and ideal temperatures, leader Chris Winnick greeted a good sized group of us for a wander around Holme Stinted Pastures, 2 miles NE of Burton-in-Kendal. Having visited the site exactly a year ago to the day to find the most spectacular display of hawthorn blossom together with a wonderful show of bluebells and buttercups, Chris was hopeful of repeating the experience with us. However, best laid plans. . . although the 'May' blossom was in full swing on nearby coastal sites, it was running a good week behind schedule here. Also, the bluebells had clearly peaked some days ago but thankfully the buttercups came to the rescue and were glorious. After a brief introduction from Chris, any initial concerns that the 'target' species of Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary might not yet be on the wing were quickly dissipated as our first SPBF flew past.



We were fortunate to have BC's Martin Wain and Dave Wainwright along with us for the morning. Martin explained the history of this 'stinted' common and how the current farmers, although keen to develop a sustainable farming system for their cattle, were happy to incorporate ideas from BC and adopt a sympathetic approach for the benefit of butterflies (and fritillaries in



particular). Much of the work centres around achieving the ideal mix of bracken cover, bracken litter and violets. As we wandered along, several Dingy Skippers flew along the path edge and a variety of dayflying moths were seen; these included Cinnabar, Silver-ground Carpet and Brown Silver-line.

Several more SPBFs were seen as we made our way up and into the adjoining National Trust site of Holmepark Fell.

We were lucky to have Craig McCoy and two of his staff on hand to explain the work that the NT have been doing here. He compared and contrasted the two sites and noted the speed at which the limestone pavement was scrubbing over under a regime of reduced cattle grazing. We enjoyed lunch just below the top of the site to escape the worst of the breeze, admiring a Green Woodpecker, two Yellowhammers and several Skylark. Limestone Bedstraw (*Galium sternerii*) was in full flower and it was good to see an abundance of the limestone speciality Rigid Buckler Fern (*Dryopteris submontana*).

Martin explained how they were building up their 'bracken knowledge' with the use of 'dataloggers' at various sites around the UK. These devices measure temperature and relative humidity on an hourly basis and (always assuming they can be re-found after a year or two on the ground!) are helping to discover if there are any trends on a national scale. This was followed by a



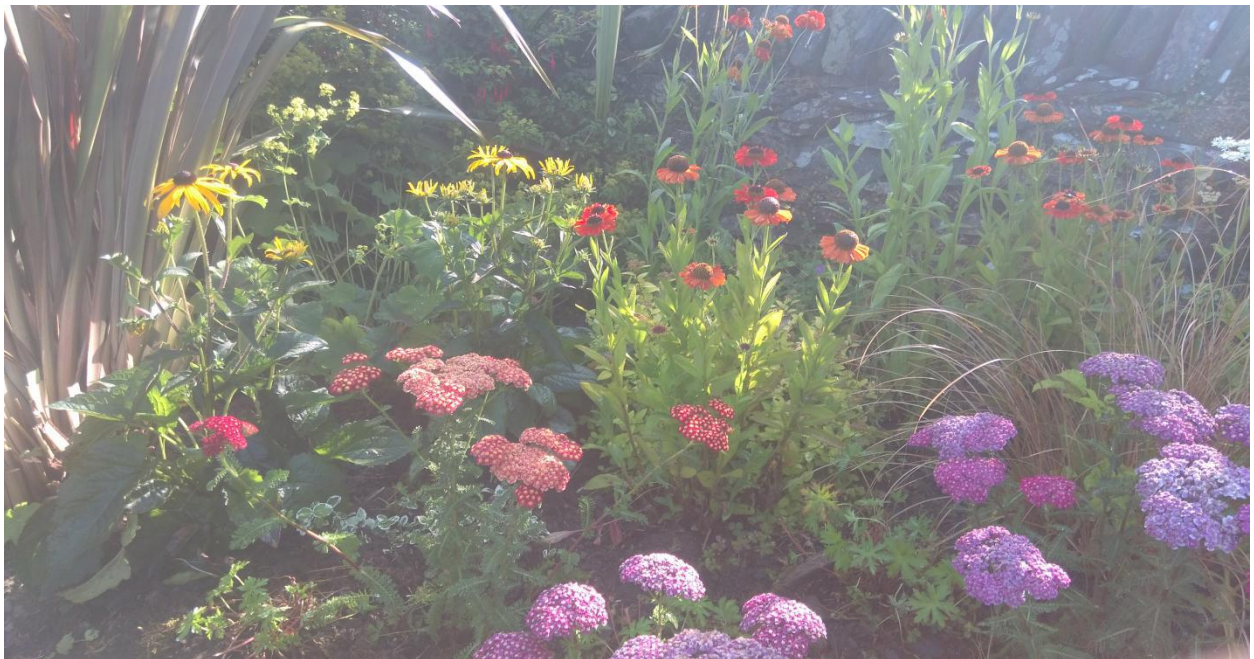
demonstration from Dave Wainwright, with the help of two Lancaster University students, of a habitat survey designed specifically for fritillaries.

He has tweaked existing methodology and made the survey quick, easy and repeatable. Within each randomly thrown quadrat, he measures characteristics such as bracken litter depth and vegetation height, together with the presence of violets, flowering nectar plants and bramble/invasive scrub etc.; each square taking less than a minute to survey.

We wandered back to our cars leaving Dave and his team to continue their survey work. Not only did we see some lovely late spring butterflies, of which the fritillaries and skippers were the highlight, we also learnt a lot about what goes on 'behind the scenes' so we can hopefully continue to see these spectacles in the future. Many thanks to Chris, along with Martin, Dave and Craig, for all their efforts.

Tony Moverley

A Flower Border for Pollinators



Since the summer of 2017 I have been planting a border of hardy perennial flowering plants, all with open structured flower heads which form the ideal landing pads to attract butterflies, bees and hoverflies. This summer sees the development of a wildlife garden at the Rybeck Hotel, Bowness On Windermere, enter an 18 month phase, and ongoing.

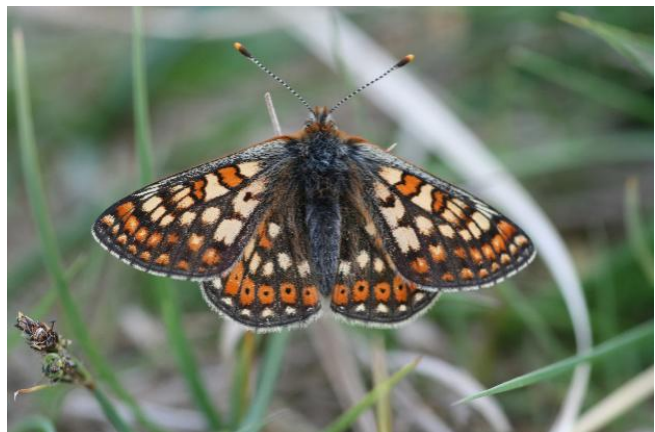
The most recorded butterfly in the garden last year was the Red Admiral. Spring of this year encouraged a large number of Orange tips into the garden, with more recent sightings in July of the Peacock butterfly, no Red admirals to date. The garden faces south west towards Lake Windermere.

The most recent planting development of the border for attracting/encouraging butterflies comprise the flowering perennials: *Helenium Sahins*, *Echinacea Purity White*, *Echinacea Tomato Soup*, *Rudbeckia Goldstrum*, *Achillea Saucy Seduction*, *Achillea. Sunny Seduction*

Kevin Line

The 2018 Marsh Fritillary Season.

As the long cool winter went on and on I was very worried about the lack of growth not only of the over-wintering larvae but also of the growth of the larval foodplant Devils Bit Scabious. As far as the larvae were concerned there was nothing stirring in my captive breeding cage to the extent I even wondered if I had a catastrophe



on my hands and had lost them all during hibernation. You see, having some in captivity allows me to see every day just what's happening and from that it is reasonable to expect the same scenario is happening in the wild. And so, the winter went on and on – oh dear!

BUT, what do I know! Suddenly and unexpectedly the weather changed, temperatures rose fairly quickly and out came the larvae – hello time in my breeding cage, nice to see you again, where have you been? Relief all round but hang on a minute, the larvae have immediately responded to the rise in

temperature but the Devils Bit Scabious can't respond that quickly. See the frustrations one can go through when one cares?

Anyway, the larvae had to go through three more instars before pupation so that would give the DBS time to grow – but wait a minute again, the larvae had better hurry up as it's already April and the butterflies are due to be flying by the last week in May and there needs to be a month in pupation before that. So, three more instars, pupation and emergence in two months was a tall



order so we needed superb weather conditions to have a successful season.

Fast forward to mid June and we did indeed have superb weather conditions. The butterflies were flying on time by the 100 on several sites and the DBS and habitat generally looked spot on.

Why do I bother worrying?

FIELD TRIPS and VISITORS.

I led a Marsh Fritillary Field Trip on 3 June to Finglandrigg NNR and the eleven of us present were treated to a wonderful show. There is a full report elsewhere in this newsletter but suffice here to say we had 100's on the wing in perfect photographic conditions. There were males, females, mating pairs, primary egg batches and secondary egg batches there for all to see and photograph. One lad from the North East was seeing Marsh Frits for the first time so I'm sure he had a great day. To see Small Pearl Bordered, Small Heath, Wall Brown and other species was a bonus.

I visited that same site twice more during the flight season and each time met many others there specifically for the Marsh Fritillaries. Lads (and lasses) came from all over the UK to see our Cumbrian Marsh Frits. As one lad from just north of Glasgow put it 'you can come to a site like this and guarantee seeing everything you want to see.' In his native Scotland he too has Marsh Frits but not in such profusion. Another lad from Sussex said he had to be careful where he stood as they were almost everywhere and even where they weren't there

was DBS not to stand on. On 10 June I met two lads from the Dutch/German border who had targeted their UK holiday around our Marsh Frit season. They researched it via the BC Cumbria website. I met them when they were on their way in so escorted them along the 20 minute walk to the main site so they did not waste time or get lost. I left them after an hour or so – they were ecstatic



to say the least. All season long there was a steady stream of visitors to Finglandrigg NNR which is our 'public' site. I know there were doubters when we set off on this Reintroduction Project and some of those doubters are to be credited with ensuring we got it right.

We were determined not to fail. Marsh Fritillaries at the start of 2018 were present on 18 sites in Cumbria having self colonised three in 2017 or before. To see all those happy faces with cameras poised once again taking photos and lots of pleasure on Cumbrian Marsh Fritillary sites is satisfaction enough but even more satisfying is that the butterflies are there at all and in such huge numbers on large colonies some of which in 2018 had 12th generation Marsh Frits flying on site.

The weather during the entire flight season was superb so the August larval web counts should be good. Those web counts will occur just too late for publication in this Autumn newsletter but so far the signs are looking good with huge numbers expected in our meta-populations in Ennerdale, the Solway Plain and Bassenthwaite. The smaller two colonies near Penrith still struggle but one looks to be doing well whilst the other struggles for some reason.

Anyway, overall it's been a successful season despite the nail biting towards the end of the long winter.

Steve Doyle

**BC CUMBRIA BRANCH MEMBER'S DAY and AGM held at RSPB
LEIGHTON MOSS and at GAITBARROW NNR Sunday 20th May 2018.**



We were delighted to welcome 45 members and friends to this our main event of the year. It was hosted with the valuable and kind support of our friends in the RSPB and had started the night before when Irene Mower and friends had set up moth traps at Leighton Moss. After a good night's 'catch' Irene, Martin Chadwick and others kindly potted up the more interesting species for us to have a good look at.....this also attracted a lot of interest from passing RSPB members who were keen to join in.

After this excellent start we were treated to two illustrated talks. Steve Benner gave a superb talk on local moths and explained in very convincing terms why really 'all butterflies are moths'! Next, Bill Grayson gave an outstanding talk on conservation grazing and just how helpful this can be to our many nature reserves that benefit from his native cattle breeds. An unadvertised bonus was that BC's Martin Wain then gave a quickfire summary of all the brilliant work he has been involved with in Cumbria [see his report] and then we concluded the morning programme with a short AGM.

Reports by the Chairman, Moth Officer and Wider-Countryside officer were circulated [see below] and all the current committee [after indicating their willingness to stand for re-election] were elected 'en bloc'. However the Chair did appeal for members to come forward to serve on the committee....if any would like to help in any capacity [or to find out more] please contact him at your convenience.



After lunch, most travelled the short distance to the amazing Gaitbarrow NNR where we were expertly led around the site by recently retired Senior NE Warden Rob Petley-Jones and Tom Dunbar who has made a close study of butterflies at this site. It was not a 'bumper' day for butterflies but the detailed knowledge our leaders were

able to offer was much appreciated by all.

Minutes of Butterfly Conservation Cumbria Branch 2018 Annual General Meeting

Held at 1 p.m. on Sunday 20th May 2018 at RSPB Leighton Moss Reserve

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Chris Winnick (CW) chaired the meeting and welcomed the members attending and also introduced the members of the Committee present. Apologies were received from: David Eastlick, Pete Moreton, Peter Boardman and Martin Tordoff

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 3rd June 2017

It was proposed by Tom Dunbar and seconded by Lynne Farrell that these be approved as a true and correct record.

3. Matters Arising

There were none

4. Chairman's Report

CW thanked Martin Chadwick, Irene Mower and Steve Benner for setting up the moth traps which had been opened at 9.30 a.m. for all to view.

This is BC's 50th anniversary so CW's report (paraphrased below) is more retrospective than normal and reflects on the Branch's 18th anniversary.

In the 1990's parts of the UK were still not covered by the web of 31 branches that now cover the country. Steve Doyle and Sam Ellis were founder members of what was then known as the North of England Branch. Then in 2000 Steve and Sarah Bradley were instrumental in setting up the Cumbria Branch with the remaining area (Northumberland and Durham) left as the NE Branch.

Steve Doyle became chairman, Branch organiser and newsletter editor (he virtually wrote and produced the newsletter single-handed in the early years) with Sarah as treasurer and moth officer. Steve did an amazing job for 10 years and even after standing down from the committee continued to produce our newsletter until this year. He still runs work parties, field trips and recording sessions in North Cumbria for Marsh Fritillary and Small Blue. Steve Clarke became chair from 2009-2012 and did a great job building up Branch membership and events but he would be the first to say that the work of David Eastlick (treasurer), Martin Tordoff, Peter

Boardman and others was key to the Branch's development. CW joined the committee in 2011 and has been chairman and organiser since 2012. Still without a secretary the branch relies on committee members to multi-task.

Over this time butterflies have had their 'ups and downs' but the greatest success story must be the re-introduction of the Marsh Fritillary. In 2004 Steve Doyle and Keith Porter took the last Marsh Fritillary caterpillar web into a captive breeding programme. In 2006 bred stock were released and by 2010 were established on 4 sites. Last year they were flying on 17 sites, two by self-colonisation. There have been setbacks and difficulties not least they almost had to 'write the manual' but the reward is stunning and testament to what can be achieved.

Other Fritillaries have had mixed fortunes. Small Pearl Bordered have been fairly resilient, Silver Washed expand and contract yearly, Dark Green expanded until 5 years ago but have since declined while High Brown and Pearl Bordered are fighting for survival. Other specialist butterflies have also had difficulties: Small Blue have come under pressure from the development of brown field sites and Duke of Burgundy colonies have been lost with those remaining under threat from increased isolation and habitat loss. Scotch Argus on Arnside Knott is a concern.

[Some of these problems were discussed in the afternoon when committee member Rob Petley-Jones showed us around Gaitbarrows NNR and Tom Dunbar reported on the mysterious Brown Hairstreak].

On the success side grass feeders (Small Skipper, Ringlet, Gatekeeper and Speckled Wood) have expanded their range and Comma and Orange Tip continue their climate change induced march north.

Steve Doyle is planning to write an article for the Autumn newsletter on the history of the Branch in more detail but comparing the early days with today membership has doubled in the last 10 years, conservation work and guided field trips have tripled and the newsletter has changed from 12 or 16 black-and-white pages to up to 40 pages in full colour. The first Branch website was set up in 2009 and has since been fully updated by Mark Eastlick who also introduced the successful sightings facility. Tom Dunbar also runs the new electronic way of keeping in touch via 'dotmailer'.

Martin Tordoff has worked wonders with the Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey -now run equally well by Martin Chadwick – and both Martins are running more moth events than ever. Also more moth and butterfly records are being sent to Tullie House (the county recorders) every year and apart from transect recording Tom and others have been very active in discovering, re-discovering and monitoring key sites.

The input from BC staff David Wainwright and Martin Wain and the work with partner organisations is important. There are links and joint events with the RSPB, CWT, NT, NE and the Arnside & Silverdale NH Society, with many Branch members also being active in these organisations. Closer links are also being

developed with Lancashire and Cumbria Universities and the Branch are also engaged with exciting HLF applications to help save and hopefully expand populations of Duke of Burgundy and Small Blue: there will be more about this in later reports.

At a time when traditional sources of funding are becoming more difficult the challenge of saving our threatened species is at its greatest. Resources are being stretched: only by working closer with landowners and partner organisations on a landscape scale (and that includes working with conservation graziers such as Bill Grayson) will a lasting difference begin to be made.

5. **Treasurer's Report 2017-2018** (David Eastlick, DTE)
DTE's report was presented in his absence, as follows:

Head Office centralised branch finances in 2017-2018. There are accounting advantages for Head Office and rigour introduced into the external audit of Butterfly Conservation charity. At a branch level payment of volunteer expenses is cumbersome. But once the requests for payment and supporting documentation is received by Head Office, payment has been made promptly within the rules of the system.

There was a gratifying £726 received in donations including £350 from Fortis Remote Technology as well as the capitation allowance of £1830. The latter is a function of the membership of the branch and the former cannot be guaranteed.

A budget for 2018-2019 has been agreed allowing for donations of £100.

The cost of printing the branch newsletter has continued to increase. During 2017-2018, the cost of printing the newsletter and the postage absorbed 73% of the capitation allowance. The practical contribution of the branch towards promoting the environment for butterflies absorbed the remainder together with the donations and the release of money from one of the branch's funds. The accompanying income/expenditure accounts provided a better idea of the overall use of funds. In 2018-2019 the committee will continue to monitor the cost of the newsletter.

6. **Moth/Wider Countryside Reports**

In his absence Martin Tordoff's (MT) Moth report was presented (see below). Martin Chadwick presented his Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey report (see below).

7. **Election of Officers/Committee** CW asked if anyone was interested in joining the committee and if so they should speak to him separately. John proposed and Steve seconded that the committee be re-elected as it is.

8. Morecambe Bay Limestones Project (MW)

MW presented his very informative and detailed report (see below)

9. Questions and Answers Session

There were no questions

10. Any other business

There was none raised and the meeting closed at 1.45 p.m.

Butterfly Conservation Cumbria Branch, AGM 19 May 2018, Moth Report

I recently took over from Liz Still the role of county moth recorder for Cumbria, following her near-decade in that position. She, working closely with Gary Hedges, Teresa Frost and Moustafa Eweda at CBDC (the first two of whom since moved on), has brought the county's moth database and record-keeping in general into the modern age, and I pay tribute here to their sterling efforts. Data receipt and collation is now mainly in the capable hands of Stuart Colgate, my own responsibility meanwhile being for record verification and production of an annual moth report for inclusion in the publication *Birds and Wildlife in Cumbria*; the 2016 report in that publication should be available shortly.

It is worth noting first the three new county records of macro-moth species, all in July 2017, and a notable rediscovery in the summer of that year. New species were: Northern Arches (Rob Pickett at Brampton); Cloaked Carpet (Peter Macqueen at Braithwaite) and Least Carpet (Martin Chadwick at Grange-over-Sands). To quote Teresa a few years ago, "...moths are being recorded new to Cumbria at a rate of around five micros per year and one new macro every couple of years...". So we've bucked the trend with three new macro species in 2017. The rediscovery was of Northern Dart, an upland macro species with an odd-numbered-year biennial flight season, last previously recorded in Cumbria at Moor House National Nature Reserve in 1979, but turning up at the Rothamsted trap at that same site in 2017. Intensive light-trap searches for the moth were made independently there in 2013 and 2017 without success, so it is good to know it has clung on here. It is good too that the county now has an increasingly comprehensive moth recording network with capable regular contributors in several areas not well covered in recent years. Long may this trend continue.

Finally I would urge observers of moth – and butterfly – species, however common, to report their sightings on BC Cumbria's Sightings web facility, unless of course records are already being submitted via an alternative channel. The sightings, in addition to appearing online for general reference, feed into the county's moth and butterfly databases, and it is good to report that new contributors continue to be noted submitting records in this way.

Martin Tordoff (Moth Officer)

Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey report May 2018

Thank you to all present who helped last year and have promised to walk transects this coming summer. Nationally 774 1km grid squares were walked in 2017. Cumbria butterfly recorders managed complete coverage (a minimum of two walks) on 27 squares. Twenty

two of these were done by BC members and five by BBS counters. Thanks to Martin Tordoff's efforts in encouraging more surveyors, Cumbria is not now regarded by Manor Yard as a "high priority" county requiring greater coverage.

Since taking over from Martin last autumn I have attempted to maintain that coverage and I will try to increase participation by Cumbria BC members. We will never achieve a very high coverage of allotted random squares because of the nature of the terrain in our county and the lack of observers in central Lakeland. Some mountain top locations are impracticable and unlikely to have a butterfly on them. Nevertheless I have promises of coverage in 2018 for 28 squares. This excludes the Breeding Bird Survey squares, for which I am not responsible.

I would dearly like two more squares covered, both near Penrith, so may I request that any members in that area contact me if they can help. Both squares (near Newton Rigg and Hutton in the Forest) are easily accessed and are likely to have some butterflies to count.

Martin Chadwick (WCBS Organiser)

Report on Morecambe Bay Limestones Project May 2018

Butterfly Conservation have had a strong presence in Cumbria for many years, and over the past 12 months we have been involved in a wide range of Projects.

Martin Wain has been leading the Morecambe Bay Facilitation Fund, which brings Landowners and land managers together to develop landscape scale conservation, by offering training and demonstration days, to show best practice for all sorts of butterfly and biodiversity gains. We have been working with an ever increasing group of 50 landowners to undertake a range of events such as a wood-processing demonstration day, a guided trip to Wild Ennerdale, and developing a scything group. We have also been developing partnerships to promote butterflies like the Duke of Burgundy in Rusland, we have encouraged cluster groups to undertake management for the Brown Hairstreak butterfly and run citizen science projects using pheromone surveys for the Barred Tooth-striped moth.

In addition our WREN project is coming to the end of its 3rd and final year where we have brought significant woodland management to a range of sites including Witherslack Woods, Underlaid Wood, Farrers Allotment, and Whitbarrow. We have seen some fantastic responses to this work eg the best recorded colony of the White Spotted Sable moth is now at Marble Quarry, High Brown Fritillary has been recorded in Yewbarrow and across the management sites and Duke of Burgundy has colonized managed areas on Whitbarrow.

As the WREN project is ending we are looking for other funding and we have applied for a two year funded project from the Walney Extension Fund, and we have successfully worked with the Cumbria Branch to obtain a 1 year funded project around the Duke of Burgundy, however our attempt to work with 10 other local wildlife charities to bring £2.5m into the area from the Arcadia Group fell at the third fence in February.

The Wings in the Woods element of the Rusland Horizons HLF project, led by Hilary Smith, has enabled us to monitor rare butterfly and moth species in that area and this year we have redefined the distribution of the Argent and Sable moth, encouraged a student to look at White Letter Hairstreak populations, while undertaking significant recording projects in Grizedale and Rusland for Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterflies. Next year we will be continuing the project to plant up primrose stepping stones across the landscape to support Duke of Burgundy colonisation.

The research undertaken by Lancaster University has been very popular with branch members, and we had a successful event at Lancaster reviewing the excellent post graduate and undergraduate studies from last year. This year we have worked with the terrific staff at Lancaster and Cumbria Universities to support 8 butterfly and moth projects, including work on the Fritillaries of Warton Crag, genetics of the Scotch Argus, and a violets in coppice butterfly habitat study.

This year is proving to be a memorable year for butterflies for all sorts of weather related reasons and we hope to have captured some of the wonderful recording work that volunteers are doing from the records on the sightings page as well as the Big Butterfly Count, the butterfly transects and timed counts.

Volunteers in Cumbria do a tremendous amount of recording on butterfly transects and it is this data that often underpins our successful bids to funders, and establishes Cumbria as a genuine hot spot for butterflies in the UK.

Butterfly Conservation often operates in partnership with other Cumbrian projects and this year we have been helping the Morecambe Bay Partnership to spend some of their money on butterfly and moth habitat, we have been trying to persuade the Species Restoration Project at Cumbria University to look at spending money on restoring some butterfly species in the county, and we have a close working relationship with Natural England, who have developed a dozen 5 and 10 year Countryside Stewardship schemes around rare and threatened butterflies.

Martin Wain

Moths, Pheromones and the Barred Tooth-striped

The terms pheromones and hormones are often confused, but the latter are blood-borne chemicals controlling the synchronisation of body organs and



Barred Tooth-striped

metabolism whereas pheromones are released into the environment and carry messages to other individuals of the same species. They are produced by many classes of animals but it is probably the insects

that make most use of them. Moth pheromones have been particularly well studied, initially because they proved an effective way of controlling pest species. The larvae of Pine beauty was a serious pest of Lodge pole pine in Scotland when this alien species was extensively planted. Pheromone traps lured the male moths to their doom, but more importantly indicated which areas of plantation held the insects and should be treated with insecticide. Similar control methods have been used world-wide on a variety of insects that eat things that we would rather they didn't.

The pheromones are usually produced by the female moth to alert males of her presence. Soon after emergence she produces a substance from the tip of her abdomen that evaporates and is carried off in the breeze. It can be carried many hundreds of meters downwind and tiny amounts, perhaps even just a molecule, may be sufficient to stimulate a male to follow the chemical trail. It is no coincidence that in many moths the males have bigger and more elaborate antennae than the females. Some female moths, especially some species breeding in winter, don't even fly. Their wings have become vestigial and they sit on a tree trunk, waft pheromones and wait for the males to find them. This method of communication may stimulate moths to travel across areas of quite unsuitable habitat to find their receptive partner. By contrast, think of the butterflies that usually use sight to find a mate. Is this why habitat fragmentation has had such a devastating effect on the populations of many of our butterfly species in recent decades?

"Assembling" is a term used by some moth-ers when using a captive female of, for instance, an Emperor moth to attract males. Victorian naturalists often used this method to gather multiple specimens of a desirable species for their collections. Synthetic pheromones, although produced initially for control of pests, have proved valuable tools to locate species less easily found by field observations or light traps. The clearwing moths are a very elusive group of dayflying wasp mimics that don't look much like a moth at first glance and are



rarely encountered during their brief flights in sunny weather. A wide range of very effective pheromone lures has enabled us to widen our knowledge of their distribution. This technique has great potential for studying many more rare or elusive species. Last year moth enthusiasts in the Morecambe Bay area helped in a trial of a synthetic pheromone produced to attract the Barred Tooth-striped moth. This Nationally Scarce category A species has a very patchy distribution here and in its other stronghold the South Downs. The pheromone was extracted from a female moth and analysed by scientists from Canterbury Christ Church University. Here they have a programme to develop



lures to help in the detection and conservation of moth species using such techniques. We received the lures in various strengths impregnated in to small rubber bungs. These were placed in moth traps in ash woodlands and the traps left overnight. The flight period is early April when there is not much else on the wing to enthuse moth devotees

so there was no shortage of volunteers. Never having enticed this species to a light trap before, I was delighted to find the pheromone lure very effective and I confirmed the presence of this attractive moth in woods around Grange over Sands. My maximum count was eight in one trap but on Warton Crag, a known site for Barred Tooth-striped, over 40 were attracted over one night. Of course using such methods one must be careful not to over use it as all those male moths clustering around a rubber bung all night doesn't increase the population!

More experiments are planned this year using this and other lures. Argent and Sable is a rare and declining species for which a lure would be very useful but last year they seemed oblivious to the experimental synthetic lure and were seen to fly straight past the traps which supposedly had their females' scent in it. Maybe the scientists will extract the right perfume this year and we will find Argent and Sable in unexpected places.

Martin Chadwick

Large Heath Butterfly – inspiration comes easy?



My Large Heath Sightings

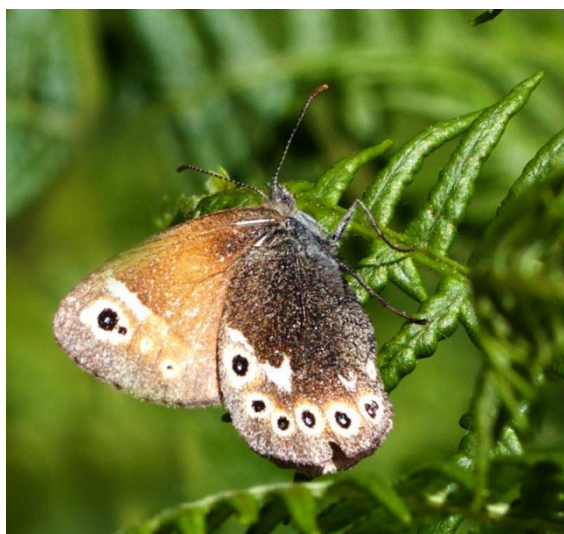
Site	Gridref	Number	Date
Cumbria			
Low Hay Bridge Bouth	SD336880	2	29-Jun-15
Foulshaw Moss	SD460833	2	28-Jun-15
Nichols Moss	SD429830	45	29-Jun-15
Nichols Moss	SD429830	2	12-Jun-16
Meathop Moss	SD443815	4	08-Jun-16
Nichols Moss	SD429830	65	22-Jun-16
Helsington Moss	SD465891	23	22-Jun-16
Ireland Moss	*Private site	14	24-Jun-16
Lancashire			
Goodber Common Summersgill	SD640638	7	06-Jul-17
Goodber Common	SD638638	2	26-Jun-17
Winmarleigh Moss	SD445478	23	17-Jun-17
Heysham Moss	SD423609	14	09-Jun-17
Heysham Moss	SD423603	4	08-Jun-17
Goodber Common	SD638638	11	26-Jun-16
Heysham Moss	SD423603	59	21-Jun-16
Goodber Common White Moss	SD638646	3	17-Jun-16
Heysham Moss	SD423603	12	15-Jun-16

In 2015 I decided to investigate a few of the many mosses of Cumbria and Lancashire for Large Heath butterfly. I hadn't recorded the species in several decades and that was in Shropshire in the 1980s.

It must be noted that there are numerous wonderful mosses in Cumbria west of Carlisle which I hope to prioritise in the near future. Drumburgh Moss is a good example.

I am reliably informed that property developers' daytime dreams are inspired by images based on the phrase 'Location-Location-Location'. Preparations for moss visits need to focus more on 'wellies-wellies-wellies' but substitute waterproof footwear might suffice. Expect a high water table – a requirement for Large Heath to thrive. Also keep safe – pockets of deep water will be present!

There are several forms of Large Heath – I will leave our readers the task of researching that topic. But our local form is regarded by Cumbrians as the most attractive – why would they do otherwise?



Can I add an extra burden to readers of this article of 'servicing' their wellies (or other waterproof footwear) in preparation for visits to some of our rich moss habitats in 2018. Are you inspired?

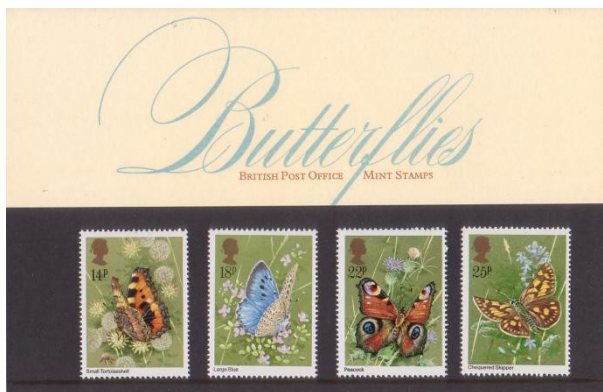
Tom Dunbar

AN ANNIVERSARY LOOK AT BC THROUGH 50 YEARS OF 'BUTTERFLY MAGAZINE' PT 2: 1980-2000.

This sequel to the last newsletter's 'opening salvo' is once again a personal and selective collection of features that have been chosen to illustrate BC's 50 year history through its magazine.

In Issue 22 [April 1979] concerns were expressed that with the recent onset of 'Dutch Elm' disease 'few sightings have been received of the White-letter hairstreak and it may well become an endangered species'. By contrast it was noted that Wood Whites were doing well in the Midlands and on the Sussex/Surrey border; however 'six collectors were in the area and no doubt this depleted numbers'. In the next issue the editor notes that 'at our March

AGM we had 40 members present....over double the previous year. Members were unanimous in wishing for a larger News Bulletin.....your committee will have to decide if this is possible given the expense.'



The first black and white photograph appeared in News 27 showing President Sir Peter Scott with Gordon Beningfield and the butterfly postal stamps he so beautifully designed for use from 13th May 1981. The next News reported that six regional branches of BC had started [London,

West Midlands, West Country, Norfolk, Merseyside and Yorkshire.....I believe Hampshire had also just started].....with Upper Thames, Dorset, Kent and Sussex Branches due to hold their first meetings by the end of 1982. The initiative 'Butterfly Year 81-82' had been a great success with a resultant boost to membership, funds and public profile. Regular contributors Bill Shreeves and Matthew Oates penned excellent articles on 'Habitat Surveys' and 'Duke of Burgundy on Chalk Grassland' with BBCS News continuing to be devoted to numerous member contributions.

Issue 30 was the first to have a black and white photograph on the cover [a Swallowtail], issue 31 had the first contents page and issue 32 the first full page commercial advert....for 'British Gas'! However it was the Spring 1985 issue 34 that had a layout more familiar with what we would come to expect....photographs, contents, maps, book reviews, articles, a list of branch contacts....and an appeal 'to help purchase our first reserve'. BBCS had really spread its wings.

After 20 years of 'BBCS NEWS' we reach issue 40 dated spring/summer 1988. HO was still 'Tudor House', Quorn in Leicestershire, The President Sir Peter Scott, Chairman CJ Tatham, Secretary I Harding, Vice –Chairman RC Goodden and Treasurer AW Bryant. This issue had 48 A5 black and white pages with gloss colour cover and articles on Reserves Policy, the Brown Argus, the Silver-studded Blue and the Butterflies of Northern Ireland. Twenty three regional branches were listed including



‘North Norfolk’ and ‘West Country’. John Tatham mentions ‘in view of the increasing workload placed on voluntary officials the Executive will look at the possibility of a paid secretariat.....if the society is to expand it is essential that it does not rely entirely upon voluntary assistance. Total income for 1987 was £20,000 and expenditure just over £10,000: life membership had just increased from £50.00 to £80.00 and ordinary membership from £5.00 to £7.00....still seems a bargain!

Issue 41 contained an invitation to the ‘21st Birthday and AGM’ featuring Caroline Steel, Jeremy Thomas and a certain ‘butterfly conservation consultant’ Martin Warren.

By issue 50, BBCS was now ‘Butterfly Conservation’ and the spring 1992 issue contained 64 A5 pages [several in full colour] with an extra section on a children’s ‘Chrysalis Club’, and articles on Stinging Nettles, the High Brown Fritillary, Cigarette Cards and How to Manage the Height of a Grass Sward. In issue 55 members were asked if they would be in favour of an ‘A4 magazine with more colour and a greater diversity of subjects’. The answer must have been ‘yes’ as soon after ‘Butterfly Conservation News’ was given a complete re-



vamp. My issue 58 is 40 A4 pages with 8 in colour and includes a review of the year by Nick Bowles, features on the Chequered Skipper by Gary Roberts and the HBF by Nick Baker and sections on ‘Branch Round Up’ and ‘Reader’s Letters’. There was also a ‘Reminders and Notices’ two-page spread with an invitation to members to ‘send in announcements

of up to 60 words free of charge’at the editors discretion! It was also the first News to list Lancashire as a BC branch with Laura Sivell as contact.

Martin Warren was now appointed as BC’s first full time paid Conservation Officer and in January 1996 welcomed Nigel Bourne as ‘Action Plan Officer’. This issue also featured articles on ‘Where to watch Swallowtails in Norfolk’, ‘Butterflies for the New Millennium’, ‘the Garden Butterfly Survey’ and the ‘Strange Attraction of the Camberwell Beauty’. By issue 67 inserts had become

popular...my winter 1998 copy contained a 'Chrysalis Club' newsletter, an 8 page booklet of winter work parties, an invitation to attend a FSC course, a BC sales order form and a Garden Butterfly Survey form. No 68 saw a tribute to retiring Editor of BC News Patrick Roper and Harold Hughes wrote a tribute following the death of much admired painter and president Gordon Benningfield in issue 69. Colour was now appearing on 24 out of 40 pages.

Issue 70 welcomed David Attenborough as BC's new President and Stephen Jeffcoat as Chairman. In the following issue Stephen paid the following tribute.....'In eight years under Harold's chairmanship BC has grown to become the largest invertebrate conservation organisation in the world, membership has doubled, we have an office at Dedham, 31 Branches with all the country now covered, a conservation office in Dorset that has grown from nothing to 10 staff, regional offices in Scotland and Wales and 60 reserves owned, leased or managed by BC'....what a wonderful tribute to Harold and to Butterfly Conservation.

In the autumn 1999 annual review, aspirations for the year included 'the re-location and merger of the current office, a membership drive, establishment of regional staff, re-introductions, translocations and implementation of Regional Action Plans and campaigning to increase BC's influence over the way in which the wider country-side is managed.'

As this review takes us into the year 2000 this seems like a good place to pause before the final part of this article [2000-18] in the next branch news.

Chris Winnick.

The Butterflies of Farrer's Allotment , Whitbarrow: 5th June 2018

Although I live well south of Cumbria, in Somerset, I've been a Cumbrian Branch member for several years. I visit Scotland most years and while on my way up (or down) I try to attend as many Cumbrian field trips as I can fit in.

This particular walk was led by Chris



Winnick and was joint with BC Lancashire Branch. On a sunny and very warm day, at least a dozen members gathered at Johnscates Farm, before proceeding in convoy through a gate and up the grit track to the Allotment.

As we started the walk (and at various stages during the day) Chris outlined the considerable conservation and management effort at the site, mainly on the part of volunteers, to provide and maintain beneficial butterfly habitats. We soon spotted some Small Pearl -bordered Fritillaries, together with Orange Tips and Large Skippers. At one point along the ride we came across several moths which were only observed by some, namely Speckled Yellow, White-spotted Sable and an unidentified Wave. It



was in this area that we noted a male Broad- Bodied Chaser dragonfly, another subject for photos. A Mottled Umber larva, found at waist level on foliage, remained largely immobile unlike the active adult moths seen earlier. Chris got very excited when we came across a colony of Forester Moth.

On the slope up to the limestone pavement, as lunchtime approached, a couple of Northern Brown Argus were seen; at the top, with marvellously clear views in all directions, we ate the food we had brought. Chris had said he knew of a likely site for us to see some late Pearl- bordered Fritillaries and those of us who did not need to leave were taken there after lunch. Personally I was keen to see and photograph one since I had missed out on seeing any in 2018 down south - they are few and far between in my area.

Chris potted one and we could examine the distinctive underside of the wings: when released the butterfly very obligingly posed with wings open for further pictures. There were also several Dingy Skippers at the warm and sheltered site.

To finish off the day, Chris took us to the adjacent Gillbirks site, principally to catch a glimpse of one or two Dukes of Burgundy. This was another species which I was keen to see in 2018 having failed to see any Wiltshire ones this time, despite it being more common there. We did not have long to wait and



at least two were observed, albeit they were not particularly fresh, being at the end of their flight period.

Other species seen during the walk were Common Blue, Peacock, Speckled Wood, Brimstone, Large and Green Veined White, 12 species in total. We also heard and saw a cuckoo at fairly close quarters as it flew over our heads together with many plants and flowers of interest. Everyone I spoke to agreed it had been an interesting and enjoyable day - the weather and Chris's intimate knowledge of the site was obviously a great help !

Geoff Hiscocks

Butterflies and Cake

The Cumbria branch outing to Hampsfell on 9 July led by David Jackson had hoped to see many fritillaries but as it was rather overcast, although warm, we only caught a glimpse of 2 Dark Green Frits when the sun came out briefly. We did see Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Grayling, Peacock, Common Blue, Large Skipper, Large White, Speckled Wood, Comma, Ringlet, Small Heath and Brimstone moth. Wendy Nelson closely inspected shrivelled leaves of Rockrose and succeeded in finding Northern Brown Argus eggs, which was no mean feat, and proved that the butterflies were around despite us not seeing any. It also encouraged the work party members present, who will now continue to manage the area for this and other species.

Despite the lack of numbers of butterflies and the parched ground, which was not conducive to identifying plants, all the participants enjoyed the trip,



especially as we were greeted back near the farm by the Vernon family's 'pop- up café' offering Butterfly Victoria sponge cake, fruit kebabs, home-made lemon squash, and butterfly mini-cakes, some made by the children. This was much appreciated on a warm afternoon, and refreshed us for further

exploration of other parts of Hampsfell for another hour.

There was no charge for the refreshments but the family had decided to raise money for BC, which they did in a very welcome and enterprising way, so that everyone was more than happy to make a donation. The cafe raised an fantastic £65.55.

Lynne Farrell

New Improved Website...

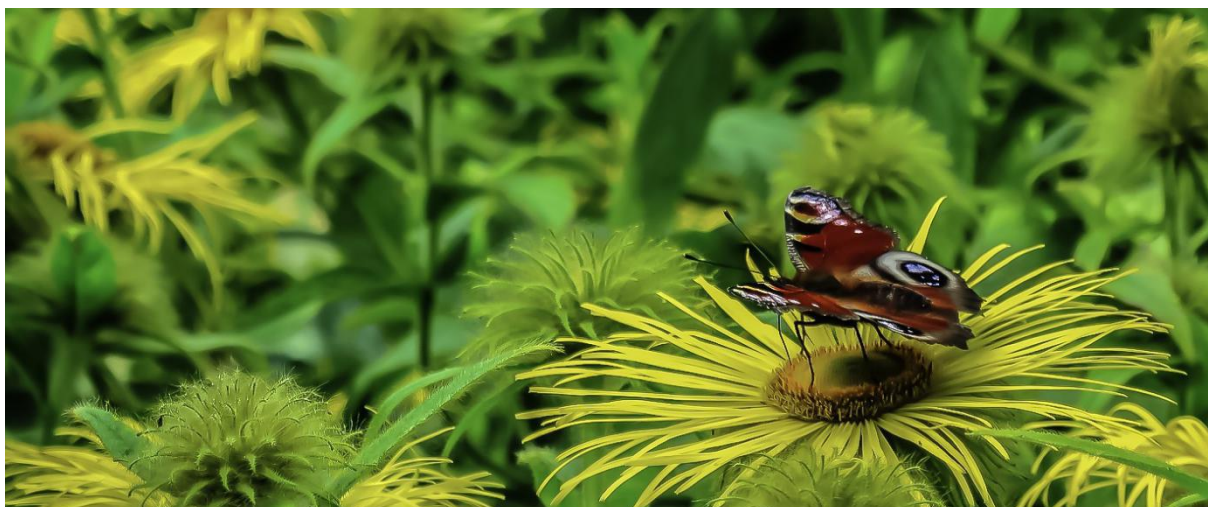
The format of the branch website has been updated to follow the recent changes to the national Butterfly Conservation website. This is a more modern, clean design with the intention of making information easier to find. The sightings pages have also been modified to work more effectively on a variety of devices, such as smartphones and tablets. This may even allow sightings reports to be submitted while you are out and about..!

Mark Eastlick, Webmaster

From the Editor.....

I hope you all enjoy the second bumper 40 page issue of the year.

Once again many thanks to all those who sent in articles, I have managed to fit almost all of them in this time. It is especially enjoyable to get articles from new contributors....if there's anyone else out there who would like to write an article please do, even if you are a novice at writing or at butterflies!



CUMBRIA BRANCH OFFICERS



Branch Chairman

Chris Winnick
The Old Vicarage,
Queens Road,
Kendal, LA9 4PL
01539 728254
chriswinnick@tiscali.co.uk

Conservation Officer

Done jointly by the Branch Committee.

Treasurer

David Eastlick, 16, Highfield Road, Grange over Sands,
LA11 7JA, 015395 32076 dt.eastlick@gmail.com

Moth Officer

Martin Tordoff, 1 Fletcher Drive, Kendal, LA9 7DL
01539 735935 mtordoff42@gmail.com

Membership Secretary

Jennifer Rae, 01524 762193, jennifer.rae68@btinternet.co

Committee Members

Peter Boardman	Wendy Nelson	Tom Dunbar
Martin Chadwick	Rob Petley-Jones	Lynne Farrell

Newsletter Editor

Karen McLellan, Collin Ford, Great Corby, Carlisle, CA4 8NH
karenm371@outlook.com

Webmaster

Mark Eastlick

Nationally

Butterfly Conservation, Manor Yard, East Lulworth,
Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5QP, Reg. in England 2206468
Charity Reg. 254937 (England & Wales), SCO392268
(Scotland)

Regional Officer and assistant

Dave Wainwright, Butterfly Conservation Regional Office.
Low Barns, Witton le Wear, Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham
DL14 0AG, 01388 488428
dwainwright@butterfly-conservation.org

Assisted in N. Lancs and Cumbria by Martin Wain

Here are some moths which can be seen now, all are attracted to light...



Garden Carpet



Silver Y



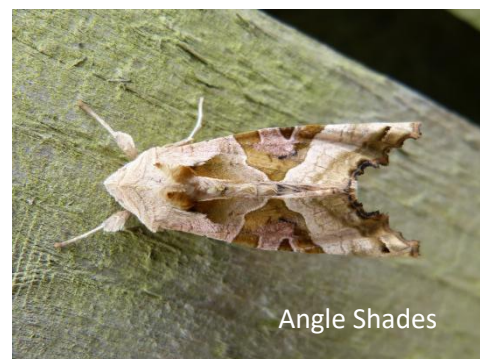
Large Yellow Underwing



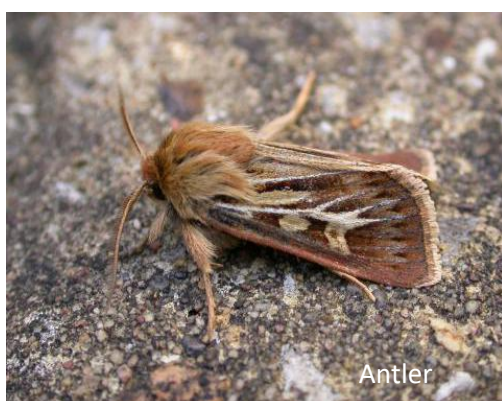
Rosy Rustic



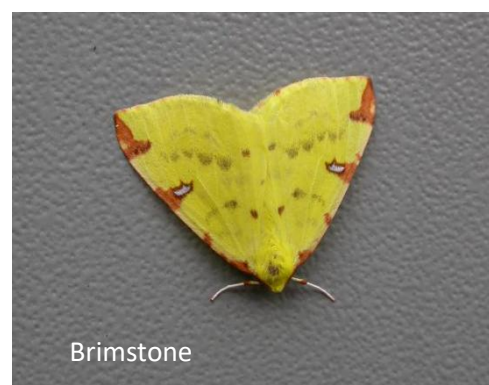
Canary Shouldered Thorn



Angle Shades



Antler



Brimstone

