The Butterfly Observer

Cornwall Butterfly Conservation Newsletter No.51



Grizzled Skipper
Photo courtesy of BC website



Essex Skipper
Photo courtesy of BC website

Butterfly Conservation

AGM Issue 2012

First Aid day at Zelah

Bitten by an adder, swallowed a wasp, stroke, heart attack or a diabetic hypo? Fear not the team is with you. Twelve members of CBC spent a day at Shaun and Jo Poland's house on October 15th training to become First Aiders. Apart from the four possible events above there are many others that may happen on a fieldtrip or a workday. Fractures, bleeding from a serious wound and even hypothermia; we should be prepared for them all.



John Woolcock is a qualified First Aid Instructor of many years experience with Cornwall Ambulance and St John's and guided the group towards their certificates. (At least three other members of the CBC Committee have their current certificates.) Apart from John's wise words we spent a good part of the time rolling each other around, bandaging some others and discussing kit requirements. Further events to deal with: burns, person on fire, immersion in water, puncture wound in the eye and swallowed poison.

The day was completed with lots of tea, coffee and food to make sure that we all paid attention. Phil Harris thanked John for his time and patience and of course our hosts for their splendid hospitality. Whereupon Philip Hambly threw himself on the floor face down. With Jo holding his head we managed to organize a log roll to get him on his front while I checked his airway. "He's holding his breath!" I said, "or at least I hope so" While we opened his mouth Philip decide not to wait for the heart massage since John W. had informed us that it was quite common for a rib to be broken during this life-saving routine. Save it for the dummy we all decided, particularly Philip. Following this course we will try our level best to provide a qualified First Aider for every CBC walk and workday.



Jo and Shaun thoughtfully also provided some Red Admirals, Small Coppers, a Comma, Painted Lady and Holly Blue, to accompany our lunchtime pasties in the garden.

Jim Barker

Butterfly and Moth Field Trip Reports, 2011

Steeple Woodland, St Ives—Saturday July 9th 2011

This walk was originally intended as a transect workshop, however since four of the five walkers are already doing transects it turned into a morning walk. The weather was reasonable, dry with intermittent sun. Pat Frank, who walks the woodland transect for us had kindly arranged for one of the committee to come along, on his bike, to give us an introduction to the project. We then walked around the transect spotting a few butterflies as well as a mini-copter with John and Sally Foster inside. The first fly-past on a BC walk?

Since the woodland project has resulted in the cutting down of many rhododendrons and the replacement with many native species keeping a record of butterflies at the site is considered important. At the moment most of the trees are fairly small so the woodland will develop a lot over the next ten to twenty years. We hope the butterflies too will increase in numbers, both in species and populations.

Jim Barker

Lethytep—Saturday, 30th JULY 2011

A few years ago, after constructing the lakes here at Lethytep, I noticed a distinct increase in the number of butterflies that we saw throughout the year. Of course the lakes and surrounding woodland and meadows were now maturing and the tremendous increase in wild flowers was becoming apparent. Although we had planted some slightly 'domesticated' species to attract butterflies, bees and insects, these were soon swamped by a surge of wild flowers originating from the seed bank which had been disturbed during the mechanical excavation when making the lakes and woodland rides etc. It was at this point that I was introduced to a local man called Jerry Smale who operated a tropical butterfly display during the summer months at nearby Porfell Animal Park.

Jerry and I had a few walks around my land and it was not long before I realised what a tremendous depth of knowledge he had about butterflies in particular and wildlife generally. He raised my expectation of the number and variety of butterflies I might attract to the site with careful management and planning.

Having had a lifelong interest in photography, I was already trying to compile an informal photographic collection of all the flora and fauna at Lethytep and of course butterflies provided another fascinating addition.

In early 2010 my wife Faith, and I attended a butterfly field trip at Carkeet and subsequently, a few members of CBC visited us at Lethytep and provided much encouragement to further our project. Having joined CBC earlier in the year, I was soon persuaded to become a Committee Member at the AGM in January 2011, and at my first



Members and friends gather on the lawn at Lethytep, before the walk

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committee meeting proper I suggested the use of our Conservation/Wildlife area as a potential venue for a field trip.



Jerry Smale had found the eggs of the Purple Hairstreak here at Lethytep in the Spring of 2010, and in July of that year I went down with binoculars to see if I could find any butterflies. After just a few minutes I saw the Purple Hairstreaks at the top of an oak tree and rushed back to the house for a camera.

There were many sightings throughout July and August but the problem was that they were too far up the tree for good observation and photography. I pondered how I might get closer to them - safely!

After the committee members had agreed to a field trip, I suggested that I would enquire about hiring a 'cherry picker' type of access platform that would be suitable for the site and would also provide the necessary degree of safety for our members. This would provide a unique opportunity for butterfly enthusiasts to see an elusive species in its natural environment.

A suitable unit was located and reserved from Panther Crane Hire at Moorswater, Liskeard. I also had to provide insurance of the unit and my insurers, NFU at Liskeard came up trumps by offering to provide the plant insurance FOC and also agreeing to pay the hire charges!! (over £200).

So the field trip date was fixed for Saturday 30th July or 31st if Saturdays' weather was inclement. And then the doubts crept in! - what if the weather was bad for both days? Would there be any Purple Hairstreaks?, Would anyone turn up?, Would there be enough refreshments? Etc. etc.



Members walking down from the house to Beth and Gordon's lake.

We need not have worried - we were blessed with super weather on the Saturday and preceding days so all our preparations were well advanced and we were ready for the big day.

And what a fantastic day it was!! Just after midday the cars started arriving and my neighbour Ian was kept busy meeting and greeting and giving directions for parking.

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I tried to maintain a presence near the entrance gate to give everyone a formal welcome and direct them to the refreshment tent for a cuppa whilst everyone assembled. And they kept coming until around 2.30pm by which time there were over 80 butterfly enthusiasts raring to go!

After a short welcome speech and the mandatory Health and Safety warnings, I led a large group of happy people firstly to my neighbours' (Beth and Gordon Roberts') lake, then on to my woodland walk, eventually arriving at our lakes an hour or so later.



Members in cherry picker, with group looking on

Everyone was then left to wander around as they pleased, some looking for butterflies and various insects, and others just enjoying the wonderful weather and soaking up the atmosphere whilst chatting with friends and making new acquaintances.

But the highlight of the afternoon for most was to go along the top woodland path to the large rounded oak where Jeremy and his son, Jowan were waiting with the access platform ready to hoist everyone up some 40 feet to the uppermost branches to view the Purple Hairstreaks. As the cherry picker could only take two persons at a time there was an orderly queue for most of the afternoon, and yes, the Purple Hairstreaks did oblige for several enthusiasts, but even the ones who failed to see the elusive species were more than thrilled with their visit to the top! We were all delighted when Steve Jones managed a superb close up photo of this magnificent butterfly with his long lens, but the prize for most enjoyed view of a Purple Hairstreak most undoubtedly went to John Gregory who was as pleased as a dog with 2 tails!!

Many others saw the Purple Hairstreaks flying around the treetops and everyone agreed it had been a most rewarding and pleasurable experience.



Purple Hairstreak

Refreshment were served throughout the afternoon by Faith and her enthusiastic band of wonderful helpers including Beth, Pat, Senara, David, Tegen and Gordon.

Our publicity and fundraising officer Jo, and her husband Shaun were kept busy with a tombola and various promotions and Lee Slaughter with his book stall, to provide much needed funds for our ongoing butterfly conservation projects in Cornwall.

So, all in all it really was a great day - wonderful weather and excellent attendance.

Butterfly and Moth Field Trip Reports, 2011

TRIBUTE

The original plan for the day was for everyone to meet at 12.00 noon in the car park of Porfell Animal Park which is just a few hundred yards from Lethytep. We were to visit the Tropical Butterfly House operated by Jerry Smale who would provide an opportunity for CBC members to view some wonderful examples of these foreign beauties which Jerry had reared, before we went on to Lethytep for the main event.



Jerry Smale, outside Beth and Gordon's summerhouse on the day he first found the eggs of the Purple Hairstreak at Lethytep

Very sadly, just a few days before our event, Jerry Smale passed away unexpectedly in hospital after being taken ill just the previous day.

John Gregory kindly contacted Jerry's family and asked if he could collect some of Jerry's specimen butterflies and moths for display at Lethytep. The family were delighted that Jerry's efforts had been recognised and appreciated by CBC members.

We were also especially pleased when Jerry's three daughters attended the event, particularly as I had paid tribute to Jerry and dedicated the day to his memory in my opening speech.

Philip Hambly
October 2011

Kynance Cove Field Trip— Saturday, 13th August 2011

It is always difficult to know when it is best to set off from my home town of St Austell for our yearly Kynance Cove field trip owing to the extra traffic during the holiday season and this occasion was no exception. I arrived only 5 minutes late but already there was a sizeable number of people waiting for my arrival - good news as the weather forecast was not good for later that afternoon – so I was encouraged to see such a wonderful turnout!

After the usual photo shoot of our party, we wound our way along the coast path towards our destination – the serpentine quarry at



Rose Chafer Beetle, Kynance Cove, 13th August 2011. Photo © P.H. Boggis.

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the southern end of Kynance Cove. News came through that Keith Wilson would be arriving later with members of his family which further swelled our numbers to over twenty.

As usual the first butterfly to be seen was the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary (second generation). It seemed that this year numbers were up still further than on previous years. Along the route, Steve Jones hung back, interested in something in the lee of an outcrop of granite. It turned out to be a beautiful Rose Chaffer (see photo). A few were seen throughout the day in a number of places.



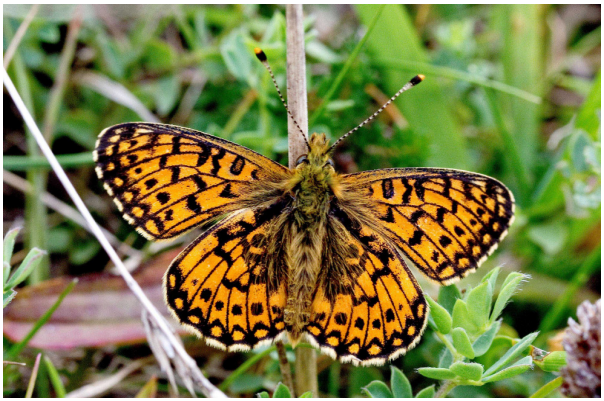
Meadow Brown ♀ Kynance Cove, 13th August 2011. Photo © P.H. Boggis.



Six-belted Clearwing to pheromone lure, Kynance Cove, 13th August 2011. Photo © P.H. Boggis.

This is an exceptional site for the Grayling and being so cryptic, it usually takes flight from right under our feet. This butterfly never seems to make the mistake of opening its wings out flat since the ensuing shape would immediately reveal its presence. Its defence mechanism, like a number of species including some moths, is to suddenly flash its underside 'eye'. The Red Underwing moth and others in the subfamily CATOCALINAE, when disturbed from a wall, fence or tree trunk, will reveal a bright crimson hindwing and a black and white underside as they fly off, thus startling their prey.

As usual we hung around the quarry where we had our lunch. There is a sizeable colony of Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries here along with a number of other species. It is secluded and rich in flora and nectaring plants. Along the top of the quarry an Oak Eggar – quite a common species to be found here, was spotted and a number of us took some photos. Quite a few of our party remarked that they had never seen quite such a large moth as this before!



Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary (2nd generation), Kynance Cove, 13th August 2011. Photo © P.H. Boggis.

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There was quite a large contingent of moth group members with us, including Frank Johns who had brought along his clearwing pheromones. A pheromone is a male scent given off to attract females and Frank was after attracting the Six-belted Clearwing (see photo). He approached me with one in a pot and proceeded to carefully place it on a rock where it would stand out and could be photographed more easily. It was very obliging and only flew away after all of us had taken the perfect shot. Many people would dismiss this species as just another troublesome wasp – and even then only if they were fortunate enough to catch a glimpse of one before it flew away – it is most difficult to follow with the eye. This mimicry of other more 'dangerous' species is also found in a number of other moths. Of course the Six-belted Clearwing is quite harmless.

It was suggested that some of us might care to see how many Marsh Fritillary larval webs we could count on a cliff-top some miles north of Kynance therefore the remainder of the afternoon was taken up doing just that. I have to say well over a hundred webs were seen and this site, whose position we would prefer to keep under wraps just for now, is the best I have ever seen. It was noted that adjacent to this site there were ponies grazing to enhance the Cornish Chough population. As a butterfly conservation group, it was felt that any grazing in this particular area in the following months and next spring would be very disadvantageous for this protected butterfly. I presume the appropriate people will be informed of this.



Marsh Fritillary larval web, near Kynance Cove, 13th August 2011. Photo © P.H. Boggis.



Wall Brown ♀ Kynance Cove, 13th August 2011. Photo © P.H. Boggis.

Some of the butterflies seen included: Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Meadow Brown, Common Blue, Gatekeeper, Grayling, Large Skipper and Wall. Moths seen included: Six-spot Burnet, Annulet, Fox Moth (caterpillar), True Lover's Knot, Six-belted Clearwing, Oak Eggar, Red Twin-spot Carpet, Straw Dot, *Cydia ulicetana* (Gorse Moth or Gorse Pod Moth), *Agriphila straminella* (a grass moth) and *Agonopterix umbelana.*

My thanks to all who attended this very enjoyable field trip – you all made it very worthwhile and I hope it was as much a pleasure for you as it was for me to meet you all and share our common interest in Lepidoptera.

Phil Boggis

CBC Butterfly and Moth Field Trips, 2012

Celebrating 20 glorious years of butterfly and moth meetings across Cornwall.

Saturday, 21st April 2012, 10:30am – Murrayton Monkey Sanctuary, Millendreath, nr Looe

This is a special early visit to the Millendreath to Seaton coastal footpath to search for Britain's earliest flying Pearl-Bordered Fritillary butterflies. Yes; you can see the Pearl-Bordered Fritillary in April in Cornwall given reasonable weather! This unique habitat, some of which is an ancient landslip, provides the ideal microclimate needed for this species to be on the wing up to 3 weeks earlier than elsewhere in Cornwall so don't miss this opportunity to see this for yourselves. Walking boots are a must due to steep terrain and bring food and drink too! Access is through strictly private land at Murrayton Monkey Sanctuary which will be closed so all attending should be ready to be guided through to the cliff path by the leader at 10:30am from the Monkey Sanctuary car park. Pearl-Bordered Fritillary, Brimstone, Speckled Wood, Green-Veined White, Small Copper, Holly Blue, Orange Tip and possible Dingy Skipper will hopefully be seen today.

Leader - Paddy Saunders

Meet at map ref - SX285546; Murrayton Monkey Sanctuary Car Park. For full details and directions phone Paddy Saunders on 01503 262567.

Saturday, 28th April 2012, 11:00am – Marsland Nature Reserve, Gooseham Mill, nr. Morwenstow

The warden of this excellent nature reserve is Gary Pilkington who was a founder member and former chairman of Cornwall Butterfly Conservation. He will give a conducted tour of his reserve which will include a large colony of Pearl-Bordered Fritillary butterflies for which parts of this reserve are specifically managed. Other spring flying species should be seen. You will need stout footwear and packed lunch and drink. Due to very limited parking, attendance is strictly limited to just 10 people and those wishing to definitely visit must phone Lee Slaughter on – 01726 817505 to reserve a place. Cars should be shared or parked at a pre-arranged place to enable car sharing to park next to the reserve as parking limited to no more than 3 cars.

Leader – Gary Pilkington (warden).

Meet at map ref – SS231172. For details and exact directions phone Gary Pilkington on 01288 331266 and Lee Slaughter (to book your place) on 01726 817505.

Saturday, 5th May 2012, 11:00am – Perransands/Penhale Sands, nr. Perranporth

Perransands/Penhale Sands hold Cornwall's best colonies of Grizzled Skippers which although highly localised will hopefully be found in suitable looking habitat amongst this vast dune complex. We hope to possibly find the special aberration called *'taras'* which is sometimes found at this locality amongst some of the Grizzled Skipper colonies. Other species which should be found include Brown Argus, Wall Brown, Dingy Skipper, Common Blue, Small Copper and Orange Tip.

Leader – Paul Browning.

Meet at map ref – SW774553 in lay-by on edge of road opposite the turning to Rose village by entrance to footpath onto sand dunes. For details and directions phone Paul Browning on 01736 763677.

Sunday, May 6th 2012, 10:00 onwards – 'A Day for Nature' at Stithians Lake which is situated between Falmouth and Redruth

'A Day for Nature' sponsored by SW Lakes is an event in which RSPB, BTO, CBWPS,CWT, SW Lakes, Cornwall Bat Group, Cornwall Mammal Group and ourselves, Cornwall Butterfly Conservation are participating. It will include stalls/stands in the Conference Rooms near the Water Sports Centre between the hours of 10-00am and 4-00pm, a raffle, a bird ringing demonstration will take place during the morning subject to the weather, a joint bird/butterfly walk (time to be advised) and an

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opportunity to meet and make friends with other conservation minded people.
Our website will be updated when further details are available but in the meantime Keith Wilson our Membership Secretary will help with your questions and give directions. Keith can be contacted by email at trelusback_farm@hotmail.co.uk or by telephone 01209-860298 and 07972-376982.

Saturday, 12th May 2012, 2:00pm – Bunny's Hill, nr. Cardinham, Bodmin Moor
Bunny's Hill is an easily accessible site and is one of the best places in Cornwall to see the Pearl-Bordered Fritillary butterfly at close quarters. Much habitat conservation work is being carried out here to ensure the continued existence of both Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary and the rarer Pearl-Bordered Fritillary. There were in excess of 100 adult butterflies on the wing here last May during our fieldtrip of these species so there is much expectation for this year's fieldtrip! Please do bring your camera as photography is comparatively easy at this locality. Brimstones are usually seen together with Small Heath, Holly Blue, Orange Tip and possibly Dingy Skipper. There is plenty of parking .
Leader – Lee Slaughter.
Meet at map ref – SX117675 at fork in road, with further parking 50 yards up track. For details and directions phone Lee Slaughter on 01726 817505.

Saturday, 19th May 2012, 2:00pm – Fellover Brake, Tuckingmill, St. Breward
This site still holds one of Cornwall's finest colonies of the nationally threatened Pearl-Bordered Fritillary butterfly which can be seen over a wide area of well managed bracken covered hillside. Walking boots are essential as the site slopes quite steeply and can be quite uneven in places. Orange Tip & Brimstone should also still be on the wing.
Leader – Phil Harris.
Meet at SX089779, in small lay-by at Gam Bridge. For details and directions phone Phil Harris on 07754 583101.

Saturday, 26th May 2012, 1:00pm – Breney Common, nr. Lanlivery
Our annual visit to probably Cornwall's largest Marsh Fritillary colony. Good numbers of this species should be seen together with Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary, Small Heath, Brimstone, Green Hairstreak and always a few interesting moths too! Photography is almost always easy here so do bring your camera and walking boots.
Leader – Phil Boggis.
Meet at SX053611, small roadside car park near Gunwen Chapel. For details and directions phone Phil Boggis on 01726 66124.

Sunday, 27th May 2012, 11:00am – Predannack Head, South of Mullion
A cliff walk to hopefully view one of the best sites recently discovered in Cornwall for the rare Marsh Fritillary butterfly plus other interesting late Spring butterflies. The lengthy walk also includes a flooded quarry where dragonflies could be seen. Length of walk about 3 miles so ensure you have packed lunch and plenty of drink and sun cream as well as suitable clothing in case of inclement weather.
Leaders – Frank Johns, assisted by Lawrie and Helen Oakes.
Meet at SW668162, National Trust Windy Ridge car park at 11:00am or just before. For details and directions phone Frank Johns on – 01326 240357.

Sunday 3rd June 2012, 11:00am – Chapel Porth, nr. St Agnes
Our first meeting at this location last year produced over 75 Green Hairstreaks together with many other species including Silver Studded Blue, Common Blue, Large Skipper and Small Heath. The shallow seepages and boggy runnels along the valley just behind the cafe at Chapel Porth are in good shape for observing dragonflies. Walking boots, drink and sun cream essential. Terrain is steep and rough in places and the views are stunning!
Leaders – Shaun & Jo Poland
Meet at SW697495, in Chapel Porth N.T. beach car park. For details and directions

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phone Shaun or Jo Poland on 01872 540371, or 07800 548832

Saturday, 9th June 2012, 1:00pm – Greenscoombe Woods, Luckett

Organised jointly for both Cornwall Butterfly Conservation and for Cornwall Wildlife Trust (who are celebrating their 50 year anniversary since its formation in 1962, this year).

One of Britain's rarest butterflies, the Heath Fritillary, solely exists in Cornwall in the specially managed habitat, at its original main Cornish colony at Greenscoombe Woods, Luckett after it became extinct there after 2002. After its re-introduction to parts of the woodlands in the summer of 2006 it has become re-established and re-colonised its former habitat which has been much improved by clearance and regular habitat management work. We are grateful to local recorder and expert on this species, Richard Vulliamy who will lead us around, showing us the best areas to observe them. The butterfly is breeding well in a number of different areas at Greenscoombe Woods and it is always a joy for enthusiasts from Cornwall, Devon and often much further afield to visit these woods to marvel at the many Heath Fritillary butterflies that are to be seen throughout June every year. Bring a drink and your camera.

Leader – Richard Vulliamy.

Meet at SX389737 in Luckett Village car park. For details and directions phone Richard Vulliamy on 01579 370411.

Sunday, 10th June 2012, 11:00am Bosigran, nr. Rosemergie (engine houses), 8 miles west of St Ives

A superb and energetic walk along the most South-Westerly coastline of England which, given good weather, should yield excellent numbers of Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillaries, Small Heaths, Green Hairstreaks, Meadow Browns, possibly Silver-Studded Blues & Dark Green Fritillaries. Other possibilities include migratory Clouded Yellows, Painted Ladies, Humming Bird Hawk-Moths and other migratory species. Please bring a packed lunch, drink, sun cream and good walking boots.

Leader Phil Harris.

Meet at SW421364, in car park besides B3306 road just east of Rosemergy. For full details and directions phone Phil Harris on 07754 583101.

Friday, 15th June 2012, 9:30pm Lower Cabilla Wood, Glyn Valley, nr. Bodmin (C.W.T. Reserve)

Organised by Cornwall Moth Group. All Cornwall Butterfly Conservation members and other interested people are welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing and recording scores of beautiful summer flying moths which should include the large & impressive Hawk-Moths. There are always many moths to be seen in this wood so there may be new discoveries awaiting us.

Leader – Phil Boggis.

Meet at SX129653 in sawmill car park at entrance to reserve. For details and directions phone Phil Boggis on 01726 66124.

Saturday, 16th June 2012, 2:00pm Perran Sands and Penhale Sands, nr. Perranporth

A mid-summer ramble over Britain's highest sand dunes complex to see large numbers of freshly emerged Silver-Studded Blues. We would also hope to see Large Skippers, Small Skippers, Meadow Browns, Common Blues, Dark Green Fritillary, Scarlet Tiger Moth and Humming Bird Hawk-Moth & other scarce moths & plenty of wild flowers. This event always turns up unexpected moths or butterflies. Please bring plenty to drink, a sun hat, sun protection, good walking boots.

Leaders - Lee Slaughter and Phil Boggis.

Meet at SW774553 in lay-by on edge of road opposite the turning to Rose. For details / directions phone Lee on 01726 817505 or Phil on 01726 66124.

Sunday, 17th June 2012, 11:00am Porkellis Moor, Wendron, Nr. Helston

An interesting walk through this habitat that is being restored with targeted conservation

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work aimed at encouraging more species of butterflies, moths and dragonflies to inhabit this damp area. The Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary has been recorded here along with Ringlets, Small Heaths, Meadow Browns, Common Blues, Large Skippers and good numbers of several species of dragonflies including the nationally scarce Small Red Damselfly. Please bring a packed lunch, drink, sun cream and wellington boots as there are quite a few wet areas where we will walk.

Leader - Jack Keeping.

Meet at SW689325. For full details and directions phone Jack Keeping on 07817 251075.

Friday, 22nd June 2012, 9:30pm – Watergate, West Looe Valley, Looe

Mid-summer mothing for the Scarce Merveille Du Jour Moth. Organised by Cornwall Moth Group.

The sedentary Scarce Merveille Du Jour moth has almost certainly continuously bred in the West Looe Valley on Oak trees since shortly after the last Ice Age! It is proposed to re-visit a site a few miles up the West Looe valley from Kilminorth woods at Watergate where there is a distinct possibility that the Scarce Merveille du Jour moth may still be lurking undiscovered. There are some mature oaks near to the water's edge on the footpath leading south. The moth light will be on from dusk until late but meet at 9:30pm. Expect to see and record many dozens of summer flying moths at this meeting! Bring a torch as no artificial lights nearby.

Leader - Phil Boggis.

Meet at SX234545. Plenty of parking is available up the lane from the West Looe River's grassy floodplain. For full details and directions phone Phil Boggis on 01726 66124.

Saturday, 23rd June 2012, 11:00am – Poldice, St Day

A repeat of last year's successful maiden field trip to this very interesting site. We will be searching heathland on old mining landscape at St Day for newly emerged Silver-Studded Blues of the 'heathland' type. These are special to Cornwall as most counties have lost their colonies of this species. Grayling and other summer species such as Large Skipper & Ringlet should be seen too. Walking boots, drink and sun cream essential.

Leaders – Phil Harris and Keith Wilson.

Meet at SW737426, in lay-by at Poldice. For details/directions phone Phil Harris on 07754 583101, or Keith on 01209 860298.

Friday, 29th June 2012, 9:30pm – Pontsmill, nr. Penpillick Hill, St. Blazey, Par

Mid-summer Moths at Pontsmill. Organised by Cornwall Moth Group in conjunction with "The Friends of Luxulyan Valley".

All C.M.G. and Cornwall Butterfly Conservation members as well as anyone interested in moths are welcome at this meeting.

A moth evening of recording together with Cornwall Moth Group and "The Friends of Luxulyan Valley". This event will begin at dusk and you should bring Wellies and a torch. Plenty of parking is available in the main Pontsmill car park. Past mothing events here have recorded over 125 different species of moth for one night's recording! The larger species of Hawk-Moths should be seen at this meeting too! It will finish after Midnight but you can leave before if you want.

Leader - Phil Boggis.

Meet at SX073561 in the car park at the end of the single track road. For details and directions phone Phil Boggis on 01726 66124.

Saturday, 30th June 2012, 2.00pm 'Lethytep', Penadlake, Lanreath

Philip and Faith Hambly invite all Cornwall Butterfly Conservation members and friends to view their Wildlife area where there will be a covered area to eat lunch. Hot drinks + toilet will be available. At 2:00pm there will be welcome from Philip, who will inform visitors about the Wildlife area with its walks

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and lakes. It is to be hoped that many mid-summer species of butterfly will be flying. Cornwall Butterfly Conservation will also have displays on show and have literature for sale etc.
Leader **- Philip Hambly**.
Meet at SX175588 in field next to house; (parking for 100+ cars). For full details phone Philip Hambly on 01503 220385. To get to Lethytep, turn south just before or just after Middle Taphouse on the A390 Liskeard - Lostwithiel road. Look out for the brown sign to Animal Land and follow this. There will be further small signs directing you the correct way

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Sunday, 1st July 2012, 11:00am Upton Towans, nr. Hayle
A delightful walk through the extensive Gwithian to Hayle sand dune complex at Upton Towans. This area, which is managed by Cornwall Wildlife Trust, was previously the site for the manufacture of dynamite. We usually see significant numbers of newly emerged Dark Green Fritillaries and hundreds of Silver-Studded Blues as well as a wide variety of other butterflies and moths. Please bring a packed lunch, drink, sun cream, and good walking boots or rainwear if weather is unsettled.
Leader – Dick Goodere.
Meet at SW579396 by the gate, in front of the large chimney at the entrance to the Cornwall Wildlife Trust area. For full details and directions phone Dick and Maggie Goodere on 01736 753077.

Saturday, 7th July 2012, 1:00pm Delabole Quarry, Delabole, Nr. Camelford
This is an excellent site for our fieldtrips and we are grateful to Dave Conway for leading this meeting for our group. Previous visits made here by several Cornwall branch members have produced many sightings of Marbled Whites and Graylings which are not often seen on our field meetings. Graylings are not often found inland in Cornwall and the discovery of good numbers at this location is good news for the species in our county where it is now mainly restricted to parts of the coast. Walking boots essential.
Leader – Dave Conway.
Meet at SX074836 in Delabole Quarry Car Park by visitor centre. For details and directions phone Dave Conway on 01208 77686.

Saturday, 14th July 2012, 2:00pm Godolphin Woods, West of Helston
Don't miss this excellent chance to see Purple Hairstreaks at this wonderful location. Come and support Carly Hoskin as she leads her 1st field meeting for butterflies. It may be productive to stay here until early evening as more Purple Hairstreaks fly later in the day if the weather is warm. Bring adequate food &anddrink, binoculars and your camera.
Leader – Carly Hoskin.
Meet at SW603321 by white gate of Blowing House. For details and directions phone Carly Hoskin on 01326 563462.

Sunday, 15th July 2012, 1:00pm Cabilla Wood, Glyn Valley, nr. Bodmin (C.W.T.Reserve)
We look forward to seeing many beautiful Silver-Washed Fritillary butterflies in this well managed woodland together with the bright summer form '*hutchinsoni'* of the Comma butterfly with plenty of Ringlets, Gatekeepers, new brood Brimstones and Summer brood Holly Blues. There is always various day flying moths to be seen in this wood so there may be new discoveries awaiting us.
Leader – Dave Conway.
Meet at SX128653 by sawmill. For details and directions phone Dave Conway on 01208 77686.

CBC Butterfly and Moth Field Trips, 2012



This Grayling seemed more interested in Phil's notes than concentrating on being cryptic! Photo: © P. H. Boggis.

Saturday, 4th August 2012, 11:00am Trelusback Farm, Penhalvean, Redruth,
Cornwall Butterfly Conservation Members 'Open Day'.
A great locality which contains wildflower meadows, woodland, wetland and a lake. If the weather permits, visitors can expect to see a wide variety of butterflies, moths, birds and, dragonflies. Cornwall Butterfly Conservation is very indebted to Keith Wilson for hosting this event, who also keeps rare breeds poultry at the farm. This is an opportunity to meet and socialize with other members. If you can, bring a guest or two and introduce them to the delights and wonders of butterfly and wildlife conservation! Our branch members have assisted with conservation work and habitat restoration work this winter to return some of the land to suitable breeding habitat for a range of species and to attract nectaring species too!
A barn will be available for chatting, eating, coffee etc. A BBQ will hopefully be running as well if the weather is good. Please bring a packed lunch plus a cake or something sweet to share with other members and our guests. New members will be made very welcome; please introduce yourself to Keith, Jo or one of the other committee members.
Leader – Keith Wilson.
Meet at 11:00am at Trelusback Farm (shown on the OS map as 'Trelusback' at map reference SW712384), which is about half a mile 'from the western end of Stithian's lake and about halfway between Stithians and Redruth. Those with "satnav" will be able to use the postcode (TR16 6TQ) to get to a red 'phone box at the end of the driveway to Keith's house. Proceed down this lane and the barn we are using is about 200 yards past the sandschool and bungalow. For more detailed directions (or if you get lost) please phone Keith on 01209 860298 or if no reply 07972 376982 or phone Jo Poland on 01872 540371.

Sunday, 12th August 2012, 11:00am Kynance Cove, nr. The Lizard
Be prepared for a beautiful walk at this famous locality for Lepidoptera. We would certainly hope to see most of the following species: Grayling, Dark Green Fritillary, Clouded Yellow (including '*Helice*'), Small Heath, 2nd brood Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary, Common Blue, Wall Brown, Gatekeeper, Painted Lady and Red Admiral. Please bring a packed lunch, drink, sun cream and good walking boots. Park in main Kynance Cove car park (car park fee payable to N.T.) and meet near the toilet block at the Southern end of the car park.
Leaders – Dave Spencer & Jack Keeping.
Meet at SW688132 in main Kynance Cove Car Park. For details/directions phone Dave Spencer on 01326 314533 or Jack Keeping on 07817 251075.

Friday, 17th August 2012, 9:00pm Loe Bar Beach, Porthleven, Nr. Helston
This is the first time we have ever had the

CBC Butterfly and Moth Field Trips, 2012

privilege to be taken to the only known location in Great Britain of the Sandhill Rustic Moth subspecies '*Luperina nickerlii leechi'*. Adrian Spalding, who has studied in great detail the full life history and ecological requirements of this unique subspecies of moth, will show us the adult moths in their natural habitat on the fine shingle beach of Loe Bar where it was not discovered until 1974. You should wrap up well and bring a good torch as there is no nearby artificial light. Due to the sensitive nature of this site, those wishing to attend will need to reserve a place with Adrian Spalding himself by phoning him at work on 01872 272711.

Leader – Adrian Spalding.

Meet at SW652236 down narrow track which leads to the south east end of Loe Bar Beach as far as cars can drive where there is small narrow car park at Chyvarloe (north of Gunwolloe). For details/directions (and to reserve your place) phone Adrian Spalding on 01872 272711 (during the day).

Sunday, 19th August 2012, 10:30am
Gwennap Head and Porthgwarra

This locality is situated within 4 miles of Lands End, the most South-Westerly point on the English mainland and should produce an abundance of butterflies. We should see Grayling, Dark Green Fritillary, Clouded Yellow (including '*Helice'*), Small Heath, 2nd brood Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary, Common Blue, Wall Brown, Gatekeeper, Painted Lady and Red Admiral. This has been a transect here since 2010 and the land is being partly managed by the RSPB for the Chough. Please bring a packed lunch, drink, sun cream and good walking boots. Park in Porthgwarra car park where there is a cafe and toilets. Pay and display car park in operation.

Leader – Jim Barker.

Meet at SW372218 in main Porthgwarra car Park. For full details and directions phone Jim Barker on 01736 794134.

Saturday, 8th September 2012, 1:00pm
Lantic Bay, Nr. Polruan

A great way to round off the butterfly season in Cornwall with a highly scenic walk around Lantic Bay east of Polruan where we would hope to see many late summer butterflies and day-flying moths. This may be the best opportunity to see Clouded Yellow butterflies this year if any migrating butterflies came across the English Channel this season. Painted Ladies, Red Admiral, Wall Brown, Speckled Wood and possibly rarer species may be seen if we are lucky! Good walking boots and a packed lunch will be needed.

Leader Paddy Saunders.

Meet at SX173517 in Lansallos car park. For full details and directions phone Paddy Saunders on 01503 262567.

Compiled by Lee Slaughter
Field Trip Organiser

My Name is Butterfly

A children's illustrated book about the monarch butterfly's life cycle.
Written by Mary Ellen Ryall and illustrated by Stevie Marie Aubuchon-Mendoza.

It sells on Amazon for $12.98
FREE SHIPPING over $25, USA.

Mary Ellen Ryall
Executive Director Happy Tonics, Inc. and the Monarch Butterfly Habitat in Shell Lake, WI, USA, Blog: www.happytonics.wordpress.com

Minutes of Cornwall Butterfly Conservation AGM held on Saturday 28th January 2012

1. Apologies were received from Steve Hoskin, Dick Goodere, Sue Netherton, Tony Bertenshaw, Sarah Brennan, Bill Sowerby, George Davis, Pauline Burton, Steve Jones, Hilary & David Phillips.

2. The minutes of the AGM held on 22nd January 2011 were accepted as a true record and there were no matters arising.

3. Phil Harris, our Chair, opened the meeting by thanking two long serving members of the Committee Maggie Goodere and Paul Browning who had stepped down as Branch Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Paul will continue as a member of the Committee and is also helping with a number of conservation projects including Goss Moor and Trelusback.

Phil reminded us that the last year had been very successful with the implementation of a new website and forum thanks to Shaun Poland, a substantial increase in fund raising due to the efforts of a team led by Jo Poland and a large increase in membership. The branch achieved the biggest increase by any branch of Butterfly Conservation and we now have 22% more members than the year before. This was achieved by members of the branch helping on promotional stands and by the branch putting more emphasis upon conservation work and friendship.

A considerable amount of conservation work had been carried out at Bunnys Hill, thanks to the kind assistance of Mr and Mr Jackson who are the main landowners, Trelusback, Porkellis Moor and work has also been planned for Goss Moor. Phil thanked the many volunteers including students from Newquay, Duchy and Falmouth Marine colleges. Some of these students were also helping at our AGM together with three students from Tremough (Falmouth). Members and/or students have also helped at sites owned by another charity at Garras and arrangements have been made to help the Cornwall Wildlife Trust at Breney Common.

The field trips have been well attended with record numbers of members and members of the public. Phil thanked the field trip leaders and made special mention of Lee Slaughter who has arranged the field trips every year since the branch was started in1993. Phil also thanked the Committee and members who had worked hard and successfully during the last year.

Phil closed the meeting by announcing he was stepping down as Chair after five years in office and wished the new Chair every success. The Chair's Report was then adopted by the meeting.

4. Paul Browning presented the accounts for the financial year ending 31st March 2011 and explained that since the year ended Branch funds had been used to buy equipment and training for three operators, a laptop and other equipment to allow us to give talks or presentations when we are asked for them. Paul added that £507 had been found towards the cost of equipment by successful fund raising. The accounts were then adopted by the meeting. A copy of the accounts is attached.

5. Election of officers. There being no other proposals the following were confirmed by the meeting as:- Chairman Philip Hambly, Treasurer Dave Spencer, Secretary Keith Wilson. In accordance with our rules one third of our Committee stood down. There were no other proposals and Phil Harris, Lee Slaughter, Paul Browning, Jo Poland and Shaun Poland were re-elected.

6. Jim Barker then gave an interesting talk about the results and methods used for recording butterflies and moths.

7. The AGM was then closed by Phil Harris and was followed by a very successful conference organised by Jo Poland with excellent support from members of the Commit-

Minutes of Cornwall Butterfly Conservation AGM held on Saturday 28th January 2012

tee and family, students from Newquay and Tremough (Falmouth) and other members of the branch.

The conference included inspiring talks by Barry Ofield, John Davis, Adrian Spalding and Paul Browning. In between talks there was an opportunity to visit stands manned by Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Colin French and Jim Barker, Lee Slaughter, Paul Browning, Cornwall Smallholders Group and Cornwall Bird Watching and Preservation Society.

We also had a raffle and refreshments whilst enjoying the excellent facilities provided by St. Erme Community Centre. Over £400 was raised on the day and the money will help the branch to fund badly needed conservation work and equipment.

CBC Annual Accounts to 31st March 2011

Receipts			**Payments**	
Receipts from Head Office			Cost of generating funds	
Subscriptions	1,079.55		Purchase of equipment	279.79
Grants				
Donations			Conservation	
Other			Site management (Trelusback)	102.56
			Tools	207.94
Direct receipts			Plant purchase (Trelusback)	60.00
Donations	401.75			
Sales income	255.00		Membership Costs	
Fundraising (raffle)	60.00		Branch newsletter	659.80
Fundraising (talks)	45.00		Mailing appeal	63.88
Bank interest	31.56			
Butterfly Atlas royalties	96.76		Management & Administration	
Return of overpayment	4.12		Three books (gifts)	30.00
			Debtors: NatWest Bank	27.50
TOTAL RECEIPTS	1,973.74		**TOTAL PAYMENTS**	1,461.47
Balance b/fwd at start of year	3,951.74		Balance c/fwd at start of year	4,464.01
TOTALS	**5,925.48**		**TOTALS**	**5,925.48**

THOUGHTS FROM THE NATIONAL AGM 2011

Adrian Spalding, Paul Browning and myself set off to Gloucestershire in an optimistic mood – a whole weekend of butterflies ahead of us, what a great thought! The journey was broken at Sedgemoor Services and at the entrance we had an amazing encounter: Martin Warren (Butterfly Conservation Chair) and John Davis (Butterfly Conservation: Head of Reserves)! What a fortuitous coincidence – and we had them all to ourselves for half an hour! We were able to put Cornwall Butterfly Conservation centre stage and they were both very encouraging and showed interested in our plans for the future. John even offered to speak at our own AGM in January! I felt we were very fortunate to have two such positive people at the head of our organisation.



Signing in! Picture courtesy Adrian Spalding

We arrived at our lovely accommodation in Woolstone (I would highly recommend these quaint and comfortable Victorian cottages http://www.holmercottages.co.uk) . The cottages backed on to an old orchard and I was fascinated to see that every tree was festooned with mistletoe! We were warmly welcomed by my good friend Linda Bridges, a member of Sussex BC branch, who helped us organise our first open day at Trelusback back in 2010. Linda cooked us a lovely tea, Adrian set up a moth trap (not expecting much as a bit cold and windy) and Paul got his books ready to sell at the AGM. Paul has spent the last 10 years researching and writing his book *'The Butterflies of the Iberian Peninsula'* – his dedication has resulted in a unique publication that has filled a gap in the market. Would it sell?

Got up on Saturday and checked the moth trap: nothing! Resolved to set it up again this evening when the weather was forecast to improve. We set off early for Cheltenham Racecourse, a 10 minute drive away. We found the racecourse easily however the signage for the BC event was non-existent! I made a mental note to myself for our Cornwall AGM coming up in January 2012 – make sure people know exactly where to go! When we finally arrived and went inside, the venue was perfect – a large open hall with a registration table and some stalls, another large room with food and drink, tables to sit at and converse and more stalls and finally a huge conference room lined with even more stalls!

The day started with the AGM and a welcome to a very packed hall from the new Chair of BC Council, David Dennis. He gave us a very positive start to the day by talking about the 2020 vision for Butterfly Conservation. This is a 10 year plan with the overall aim of creating a stronger and more effective organisation that is capable of halting and reversing the decline of butterflies and moths, and creating a healthier environment in which we all can live.

David told us that BC now have 37 reserves in the UK and our current membership stands at 17,500, a 10% increase since last year. (He didn't actually say this, but I am going to: Cornwall has had highest percentage membership increase of all UK branches with an amazing 22% increase! Well done to everyone!). David set us a national target for 20,000 members by the next AGM.

David congratulated the astonishing contribution made by volunteers to the success of

THOUGHTS FROM THE NATIONAL AGM 2011

BC – worth a staggering £9.5 million in cash terms! He asked us to concentrate our efforts on recruiting and then engaging new members and said that Head Office will help by directing more monies than ever before towards fundraising efforts. A new Head of Fundraising, Robert Pitts, has been appointed and he will be working closely with his predecessor David Bridges (who has been extremely helpful to me in my role as Fundraising and Publicity Officer for our branch). Robert's remit will be to expand partnerships and assist the fundraising expertise that already exists within branches – bring it on, I thought to myself!

We then heard the Treasurer's Report from David Hanson. He told us that the Natural England cut to BC was large, harsh and regrettable. However, we were also reassured that BC nationally was in an excellent state to withstand the current economic crisis and the next recession that was already looming ahead of us. Members have reacted very positively to appeals and were being very financially supportive. Also, increased security from a recent transfer of 2 million in capital from a charitable trust during the last year means we can protect our paid staff contracts. David reminded us that this security also allows the Trustees to be able to underwrite, and negotiate hard on, the purchase of any new reserves. BC will draw on its reserves and branches were also reminded to mobilise and draw on their own savings if necessary.

Martin Warren (Butterfly Conservation Chair), looking really cool in his original BC blue silk tie (exactly the same as Lee Slaughter's!) gave a very positive view of things, although acknowledging the impact of the huge cuts in government funding. He listed our considerable successes over the past year:

- transect recording – the data collected generates much income
- the revival nationally of the Marsh Fritillary (Martin said he did not think that he would see this in his lifetime!)
- the Pearl Bordered Fritillary 'Back to Orange' Project
- the National Moth Recording Scheme – the biggest data set on any plant or animal group currently available
- the Big Butterfly Count – engaged 34,000 people and reached a completely new audience of whom only 11% were BC members! He encouraged us to get these new people embarked on an amazing journey with us ...

Finally, to end the official AGM, Martin gave a heartfelt and huge thank you to all of us that volunteer for BC (and that most likely includes you, dear reader!) and introduced the Butterfly Conservation Volunteer Awards. These went to some marvellous people from branches all over the UK who had been volunteering for 20 years plus – all very well deserved.

There was also a special award to Corporate Sponsors that was given to Naturetrek, a travel company that have supported BC for many years – Naturetrek then returned the favour with a large cheque donation of over £14,000!

After a break to visit stalls (I will give more detail on those at the end) we returned to the hall, which by then was so packed, a lot of us could not sit down!

Sue Smith, Chair of the Gloucester Branch then led us in to the next part of the day which was a talk called 'The M&S and Butterfly Conservation Partnership' delivered by the fast talking Mike Barry, Head of Sustainable Business at M&S. I found this very interesting. M&S have accepted that the planet cannot support constant and greedy expansion, even though new markets are opening up. Mike said that capitalist organisations are changing and that the big business survivors will therefore be the ones that take the environment seriously, and that M&S are committed to survival. This is demonstrated by their 'PLAN A', which is firmly based on the 'NO PLANET – NO MARKET' principle.

THOUGHTS FROM THE NATIONAL AGM 2011

Recent M&S research shows clearly, that even in these times of economic recession, 75% of customers are extremely worried about the declining health of the planet and want it put first in all business activities. Reassuringly, M&S have Jonathan Porrit (who was a prominent member of the original Green Party) on board to help steer them in the right direction. Every staff member is required to commit to taking the company's Green Agenda very seriously (I can vouch for this: Shaun did a stint in the Truro store in 2010 and came home impressed with the amount of lights being turned off!).

Mike Barry admitted that with many products they still have a long way to go but that the vision is there. He said that one way the partnership with BC can be truly beneficial is in their work with the farms that produce their foodstuffs. We must all work to keep them to this promise!

The Big Butterfly Count, which is part of 'PLAN A' has undoubtedly been a huge success and has grown each year. M&S have given us a really unique and important chance to engage emotionally about lepidoptera with the public. Certainly we are grateful in Cornwall, as this campaign undoubtedly helped us to recruit many new members this summer at our Garden Centre events. Both Martin Warren and Mike Barry gave us the same challenge – we must now as branches positively engage this customer/member group now in ACTIVITY!

I missed the next two talks 'Crystal the Small Miracle' by Sonia Copeland Bloom to promote her book and 'The state of Butterflies in the UK: the results of the BNM survey 2005-9' by Jim Asher, Chair if the Conservation Committee' because I was busy promoting Cornwal Butterfly Conservation around the various stalls! Any questions to Adrian who was present for both talks.

Back from lunch, with the conference room packed to the gunnels, and on to the next talk from Matthew Oates, Nature Advisor to the National Trust, entitled 'Studies of Fritillaries in Gloucestershire'. I enjoyed this one, as these are two butterflies that we are currently doing our own conservation work for in Cornwall.

Matthew told us about a six hectare site called Strawberry Banks, the only site for the Marsh Fritillary in Gloucestershire. Lots of interesting facts and figures, particularly about population explosions and declines – webs counted some years 330 then 30 in others! He said that his research has shown that between 6 to 8% of larvae are parisitized but that it appears that summer weather determines the abundance of winter webs, rather than the parasites. For winter web survival, Matthew also observed that no-grazing or under-grazing was worse for the butterfly than over grazing. Another interesting fact was that the larvae seem to be amazingly fire-resistant! There was an 80% survival rate and the larvae that lived were able to eat either scorched or burned Devil's Bit Scabious leaves! Matthew also told us that, after years of searching, he had at last found pupae of the Marsh Fritillary located in short turf, which surprised him.

The main message I picked up about conservation work for the Pearl Bordered Fritillary was to be very patient after clearing (Bunny's Hill take note!) and also, that too much grass is a problem.

We then heard from Dr Dan Hoare, BC Regional Officer for SE England 'Conserving Butterflies and Moths in in the South-East woods'. As Sussex is my home county, and my family still own a farm that has a 100 acre Ancient Woodland on it, I was all ears for this talk.

Dan's talk was about landscape scale conservation. The SE woodlands is BC's largest ever conservation project to date and had a huge emphasis on partnerships with other organisations such as the Woodland

THOUGHTS FROM THE NATIONAL AGM 2011

Trust, the National Trust, Local Councils and private landowners. Dan said it was important for branches to try and influence things at local policy level. The challenge for us all is to do things that make a large impact and then last for a very long time.

Dan said it was important to get the message across to the general public that cutting down trees was, in fact, good for wildlife! Long term and sustainable management plans for all woodland should be our aim with the resources being valued (i.e. selling woodland products, such as charcoal).

Conclusions/results from the SE Woolands project were:

- that the work increased the available area that is good for butterflies by 32% in 3 years
- that economic management is good, but not the whole answer – targeted grant aid is needed to make projects really viable
- that we now need to do this everywhere in the UK – another project that has recently started is the 'Dukes on the Edge Project'

Dan's talk made me realise how much we need a Regional Officer for Cornwall to support our work to take our existing projects further forward.

Another break, more stall viewing and I caught up with Paul who was doing a roaring trade on his book. No worries there – I was really pleased for him, people were showing so much interest and it was obvious that the publication has filled a 'gap' in the lepidoptera market.

Back to the conference room and the Marsh Awards were presented to people who had made a real impact in the world of Butterflies and Moths – one of these was Dave Simcox for his amazing work over decades for the Large Blue.

Last speaker was the very funny and engaging Mike Dilger, BC Vice President and presenter on the One Show. He talked about many things, his past and his life now, and how he has always been passionate about lepidoptera. He mentioned people that had influenced him and I saw Adrian blush when his name was mentioned! Mike told us how difficult it is to get Butterflies and Moths 'air time' but he has had some great successes in doing this and I thought him a wonderful ambassador for our cause. He told us not to hesitate to contact him if we had a story with an unusual 'twist' or 'quirky' content. I am determined to get a Cornwall story to him so let me know if you discover something to fit the bill!

Now, a bit more about the stalls: first of all, there were a lot! I had a good chat with Gary Richardson from UK Butterflies about images for greeting cards. Our new Fundraising Sub-committee is currently researching card sales for the branch to sell next year. Gary said that the best sellers were the butterflies that people easily recognised – Peacock, Red Admiral, etc. The rare species were not so popular, except with enthusiasts, so he advised not to make too many of these. He said cards were mostly purchased by women, and that they tended to chose ones with butterflies nectaring on flowers. I looked at the ones in my hand that I had just selected from his stand – he was dead right! If you haven't been to the UK Butterflies web-site: www.ukbutterflies.co.uk then give it a try, it's very informative and well laid out. UK Butterflies also produce a fab butterfly calender that I have been buying for friends at Christmas for a number of years now – excellent quality and all proceeds to BC!

I then looked at the Atropos Stand. It was loaded with tempting books, lots of which I would have liked to purchase but I could hear Shaun in my head saying 'don't come back with hundreds of books …'! So I resisted but made a mental note of all the titles for my Christmas wish list. For those

THOUGHTS FROM THE NATIONAL AGM 2011



'Jo Poland and Paul Browning can be spotted in this picture'!
Photograph courtesy of Adrian Spalding

of you that don't know, Atropos produce a great magazine funnily enough called Atropos (if you are like me, wondering what this word means it is "inevitable, inflexible" in Greek. Atropos was one of the three Fates in Greek mythology. When her sister Lachesis decided that a person's life was at an end, Atropos would choose the manner of death and cut the person's life thread – I was trying to work out the connection here when I found *Acherontia atropos the Deaths-Head Hawk Moth!)* The magazine is produced three times a year and was launched in April 1996. A central theme of the publication is insect migration, but all subjects relevant to British Lepidoptera and Odonata are covered. So it's really good for people like me who also have a passion for dragonflies! I spoke with the Editor Mark Tunmore and found that he lives in Cornwall so I invited him to have a stand at our branch AGM – unfortunately, the date clashes with a National Moth Recorders event but he said he would try and get someone else to come. Very generously, he donated a year's subscription to Atropos as a raffle prize – thanks Mark!

The Gloucester BC Branch had their own stand and they were running a fund-raising raffle. They also had a lot of plants for sale that were suitable for butterflies but they had a lot left over at the end – too big and bulky to travel perhaps?. A good idea for our Spring/Summer events, so please get planting now! Other than that, there was not an awful lot except for a t-shirt with butterflies on and the current Matthew Oates book. I can see a real gap in the market for Butterfly related goods that branches could sell for fundraising. I hope that our merchandising ideas in Cornwall will go nationwide and we make a fortune for the branch!

There were many other stalls selling equipment, paintings and drawings, renewable energy, etc. It made me think that for our CBC 20th anniversary in 2013 we could really go to town and pack out a venue with loads of interesting merchandise stands. Watch this space....!!!

All in all a great conference and I am so glad I attended. It made me connect much more with the national organisation that we are part of and I felt proud to be a member. Next year, the venue is Nottingham for those who fancy a longer trip.

Oh, and by the way, on the second night Adrian's moth trap got a result – three Feathered Thorns and a December Moth. We showed them to the owner of our accommodation but I don't think she was that impressed!

Finally, on Sunday morning, we went for a misty walk with the Gloucester Branch to their reserve at Prestbury Hill – and after this we all decided that our own reserve in Cornwall was a must-have!

Jo Poland

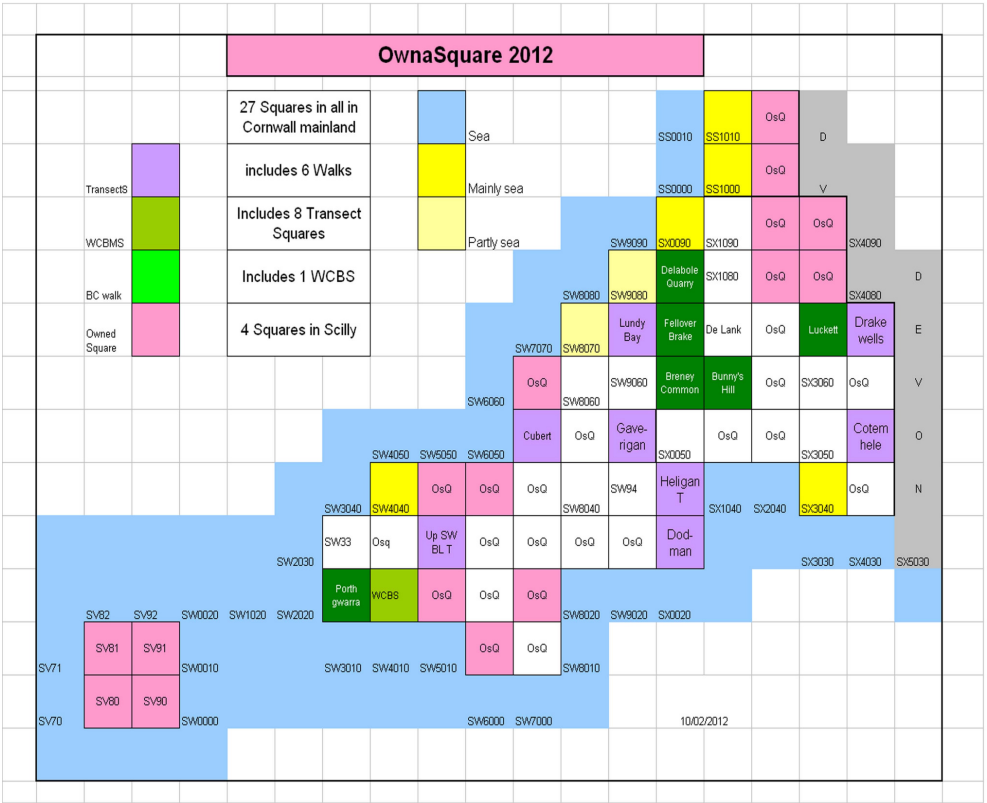
Why Not Share A Square and Find The *STREAKS*?

Our, unique to Cornwall, Ownasquare scheme started in 2011 and many of our 10km grid squares were owned and the species counted.

In West Cornwall we went one better and SHARED a square: SW4050 which is the coast each side of St Ives Bay. Sally and John Foster, Maggie and Dick Goodere looked after the Gwithian (East) side and Jim and Frances looked after the St Ives (West) side. We attached the OSq form to an email and updated it each time we saw a new species of butterfly / moth and emailed it to the others, adding the date.

On 5th July Frances discovered a Scarlet Tiger moth in the garden so I hastened to email it to the others; only to find that we had received an email from Maggie to show the same species seen the day before! So why not do the same as us and share a square?

As you can see from the map only a few squares have **definitely** been claimed this year and the more people share a square the better chance we have of getting a complete record of species distribution in Cornwall. The map will be updated on the website as the squares are claimed (thanks Shaun) so everyone can see the progress of the scheme. All you have to do is to the tick the form when you **first** see a species. It would be great if you can also add the date and the six figure grid reference. Moths are optional as I know some of you are put off by the large number of different species and difficulty in identification.



Why Not Share A Square and Find The *STREAKS*?

SW54		Jim, Frances, Sally, John, Dick and Maggie		
Butterflies	□	First Seen	Grid Ref	
Small Skipper	□	04/07/2011	SW587413	Jim
Large Skipper	□	06/06/2011	SW587413	Jim
Clouded Yellow	□	30/06/2011	SW501405	Jim
Brimstone				
Large White	□	17/04/2011	SW508403	Jim
Small White	□	25/03 2011	SW587413	Maggie
Green veined White	□	03/04/2011	SW587413	Sally
Orange-tip	□	19/04/2011	SW587413	Maggie
Small Copper	□	16/04/2011	SW578397	Dick
Silver studded Blue	□	30/05/2011	SW585416	Sally
Moths				
Humming Bird HM	□	25/05/2011	SW5442	Jim
Scarlet Tiger	□	04/06/2011	SW597421	Maggie
Five Spot Burnet	□	04/07/2011	SW587413	Maggie





Why are we doing this unique scheme? To get at least one good recorder in each square. Believe me you will become a good recorder with practice! Otherwise the danger of recording is that you record the recorders and not the species distribution. Butterfly Conservation has published a booklet on species distribution and numbers since 1976 and we in our local branch would like to check spread of species and numbers, using OSq and transects, since our Cornwall Butterfly Atlas in 2001. You can contact me by email, phone or post and you can also download an OSq form from the website. If you do this please email or phone me to update the map.

Find the streaks – these two butterflies are probably under recorded; the Green flies in several weeks around the 29th May and the Purple in July; neither are easy to

Why Not Share A Square and Find The *STREAKS*?

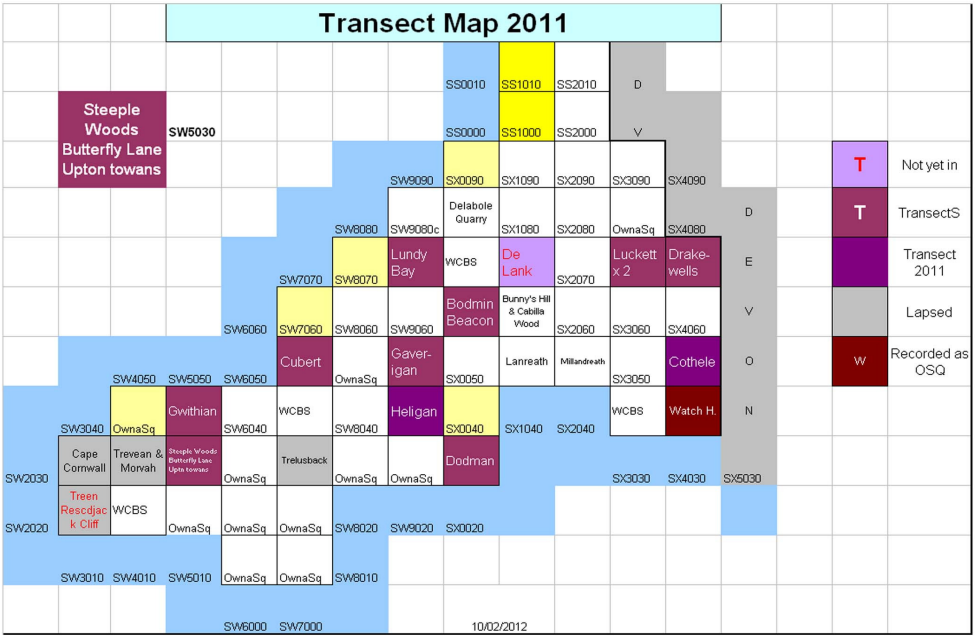
spot and don't lend themselves to transects. When you are recording a square however you can, please, spend some time examining Gorse bushes for the Green and the tops of Oak trees for the Purple. So let's see if we can't add to the measly number of 10K squares in 2011: 7 for the Green and 10 for the Purple. Please don't forget the County Recorder, Dick Goodere, you can add records from your square and anywhere else in Cornwall. These will then be put on the ERICA wildlife database to give us a picture of butterflies in Cornwall.

Good luck to all you seekers and help me to present a report to the next AGM where we can see how our species have coped with the first decade of the new millennium.

If you wish to see any of the results from this scheme: results from any or all of the squares, species maps etc. please email me and I will gladly email them back. Most are on Excel worksheets.

Jim Barker
Email:jimfrances@talktalk.net

You Too Can Walk a Transect



In 2001 my wife Frances was riding most days keeping her horse in a field near the Tyringham Arms SW518373 . Along one side of the field runs a lane which ends in Laity Lane at the NE end and onto the Bowl Rock road (St Ives holiday route) at the SE end. The footpath then continues across fields to the top of Trencrom Hill SW518369. The lane was perfect for a dog walk and Frances was doing exactly that nearly every day. We noticed a good number of butterflies in the lane and remembering back to my early days looking through *The Observers Book*

You Too Can Walk a Transect

Transects 2011

	BB	BL	Co	Cu	Dr	Do	Ga	Gw	GR	He	LB	Lw	SW	UT	All					
																			Species	B'flies
Small Skipper				✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	SX0666	BB	Bodmin Beacon LNR		20	671
Large Skipper	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	SW518378	BL	Butterfly Lane		16	420
Essex Skipper																SW3522318		(Trewartha, St Ives)			
Dingy Skipper							✓			✓					✓	SX423682		Cape Cornwall			
Grizzled Skipper																SW7050	Co	Cotehele		13	120
Clouded Yellow					✓											SX103753	Cu	Cubert		20	2140
Brimstone	✓		✓				✓		✓			✓			✓	SX0030	Dq	De Lank quarry			
Large White	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	SX4070	Do	Dodman		20	1612
Small White	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	SW9358	Dr	Drakewells mine		15	166
Green-veined White	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	SX395725	Ga	Gaverigan		18	1669
Orange-tip	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	SW587413	GR	Greenscombe Wood - Ridge		20	389
Green Hairstreak									✓							SW9040	Gw	Gwithian Common (Green)		20	937
Purple Hairstreak												✓				SW358325	He	Heligan		17	231
Small Copper	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	SX391726		Kenidjack			
Brown Argus								✓			✓			✓	✓	SW958798	LB	Lundy Bay		16	357
Common Blue	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		LW	Luckett Wood			
Holly Blue	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	SW364224		(Greenscombe Wood - Trust)		22	355
Silver-studded Blue								✓						✓	✓	SW518388		Kenidjack Cliff			
Red Admiral	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	SW396223		(Porthgwarra)			
Painted Lady	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓					✓		✓	SW7035	SW	Steeple Woods		17	197
Small Tortoiseshell	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	SW411356		Treen			
Peacock	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	SW579396		Trelusback			
Comma	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	SX435492		Trevean			
Small Pearl (BF)											✓	✓		✓	✓		UT	Upton Towans		22	3597
Pearl-bordered Frit																		Watch House Field	*		
Dark Green Fritillary				✓				✓						✓	✓			& Penlee Battery			
Silver-washed Frit			✓						✓	✓		✓			✓						
Marsh Fritillary																		Still awaited			
Heath Fritillary									✓			✓									
Speckled Wood	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			Discontinued at present			
Wall	✓		✓	✓		✓							✓	✓	✓						
Marbled White												✓						Recorded as Osq in 2011	*		
Grayling																					
Gatekeeper	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			New in 2011			
Meadow Brown	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			**Totals**		32	**12861**
Ringlet	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Small Heath	✓			✓		✓		✓						✓	✓						

of Butterflies I recognized most of them. We joined Butterfly Conservation and got a couple of wall charts. Reading about UKBMS and transects we decided to walk one so I contacted Sally Foster (transect co-ordinator at the time). Sally walked the lane with Frances, splitting it into sections, recording the habitat and generally giving us some good advice.

We downloaded the Transect Walker program from Butterfly Conservation and after a few false starts I started recording the sightings. Although we no longer have the horse or the field we are still managing to walk our transect once a week or so apart from holidays. Convenience is the most important point because it is necessary to choose a fine day.

You Too Can Walk a Transect

Anyone can set up a transect, as you can see from our experience, so what about the others in Cornwall?

We have some on National Trust land e.g. Lundy Bay; some on Cornwall Council owned properties e.g. Bodmin Beacon; Heligan Gardens is a private estate; Steeple Woods is a regenerating woodland; Roscudjack Cliff near Porthgwarra is now grazed for Choughs and the RSPB started that one. Upton Towans and Gwithian are SSSIs and nature reserves. Two near Luckett contain the only sites for Heath Fritillaries in Cornwall.

Paul Brewer walks three for his own and our interest. You could set one up as a College project, or just take a regular walk counting butterflies. Please get in touch!

The table on page 26 shows the results from 2011 so far. A couple of transects results are still awaited.

The missing butterflies are: Essex and Grizzled Skipper, Pearl Bordered and Marsh Fritillaries and Grayling, Grizzled Skipper fly just off the end of the Gaverigan transect, Grayling and PBF are at Roscudjack and DeLank Quarry respectively and still awaited.

If you would like to join the scheme then please contact me to discuss it. If enough people are interested we can have a meeting at a suitable venue and look at the results from the last ten years, trends in populations etc. and if we had the meeting at Gwithian we could also walk a transect first! The meeting would be open to everyone interested in the results or the scheme.

Jim Barker
Transect Co-ordinator for Cornwall
Email:jimfrances@talktalk.net

What Are You Doing this Summer?

In this edition of the *Butterfly Observer* you will find a variety of activities you can undertake—all of which will add to your knowledge and/or benefit butterflies and moths.

So, what are you waiting for? You can:

- Attend a Field Trip (see pps 9-15)
- Share a Square (pps 23-24
- Walk a Transect (pps 25-27

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