Cornwall Butterfly Observer



Inside this edition

AGM news
Find out what's in store at this year's AGM (page 25)



Volunteer with CBC
What's it like being a volunteer? Find out more from Sue Allen (page 14)



Recording
What's been seen this year in Cornwall? All the news on butterflies (page 9) and moths (page 16)

CHAIR'S REPORT
Philip Hambly reviews the year (page 4)

BEHIND THE LENS
Meet Nina Constable, talented documentary film-maker (page 6)

FIELD TRIPS 2017
Join us on our field trips to wonderful locations around Cornwall (page 20)

Butterfly Conservation
Saving butterflies, moths and our environment

Cornwall Branch

www.cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk







Photos:

Front cover: Painted Lady (Shaun Poland)
Back cover: Green-veined White (Philip Hambly)
This page: Marbled White (Philip Hambly), Comma caterpillar (Shaun Poland), practical conservation day at De Lank Quarry (Tristram Besterman)
Background photo of volunteer Helen Banks on our volunteer trip to the mid-Cornwall moors to search for Marsh Fritillary caterpillars (Tristram Besterman)

Contents

What's in store for you in this edition of our newsletter?

	Page
Chairman's report	4
Behind the lens: Nina Constable, documentary film-maker	6
Recording	9
Membership news	13
A volunteer's tale	14
Moth report	16
Field trips 2017	20
Annual general meeting	25
Committee and contacts	27



Small Copper (Photo: Tristram Besterman)

Chair's report



Small Tortoiseshell (Photo: Philip Hambly)

Hello everyone.

CBC has had a wonderful summer in many ways, but none came as a bigger surprise than the news back in July that we had been left a generous sum in the estate of Roger Lane. Roger had a long association with CBC, being a committee member for many years and, notably, being a prolific contributor of articles to this very magazine, in addition to sending in some 60,000 butterfly sighting records to the County Recorder. This legacy means that so much more conservation work can be planned and executed for some years ahead. We intend to use part of this money as leverage when applying for grants, in order to maximise the benefit of this windfall.

The conservation work carried out last year on Bodmin Moor and other sites has already produced a resurgence of the scarce Pearl-bordered Fritillary. Again, this is due to the sterling work carried out by our growing band of enthusiastic volunteers under the supervision of Jo Poland.

Around 12 months ago, your Committee mooted the idea of commissioning a promotional video for CBC, explaining the work we do in Cornwall to secure a future for our Lepidoptera, and why we need to grow our membership and volunteer base to support these aims. We hope you will all have had the opportunity to view the results: we are feeling very optimistic about the success of this venture. The film is made by Nina Constable Media, here in Cornwall. Nina is a young, award-winning film producer who has been very accommodating and professional, and we are indebted to her for her generosity and encouragement. Nina has a great interest in conservation and wildlife and has been a pleasure to work with. Many, many thanks Nina. The film may be seen via a link on the CBC website, and on social media. Nina features in an article on page 6 of this Observer.



Commal (Photo: Roger Hooper)

The annual butterfly and moth reports are to be found on other pages, some results good, others less so, mainly influenced by this year's indifferent weather.

As we grow the Branch, the need to keep a firm grasp on our finances becomes paramount. We have formed a finance sub-committee to formulate a comprehensive Business Plan for the Branch. This will ensure our income and expenditure are kept firmly in control, and will also be useful as a tool to engender extra funding when applying for grants.

We are so fortunate in having a strong, forward looking committee who are completely dedicated to the task of keeping CBC in good fettle. Any charity is only as good as its volunteers, and I am happy to report we have in CBC a dedicated band of members, volunteers and helpers with all the requisite qualities in abundance!

All our members, supporters and their guests are sure of a warm welcome at our AGM on 22 April at St. Erme. It is our flagship event of the year, with the usual top speakers, stalls, refreshments and great atmosphere. The AGM must by law contain the usual Branch business, but that is usually completed in around half an hour, and occupies just a small part of the day. The rest of the day is full of exciting presentations and talks. Please come along to show support for those who do so much on your behalf throughout the year. CBC has never been so pro-active, never had as many members, nor achieved so much in its history. Help us make sure that prescription endures!

Finally, I hope that you enjoy our revamped edition of the Cornwall Butterfly Observer. I am pleased to tell you that Amanda Scott is our new editor and production manager for the magazine. Amanda has brought a fresh feel and new ideas for 2017 – we hope you like the changes. Please give us your comments (Amanda's contact details are included on page 27), and let us know the kind of articles you might wish to be included in future editions.

Philip Hambly, CBC Chairman

Behind the lens: Nina Constable, documentary film-maker

Nina Constable has recently made a film specially for and about our work here at Cornwall Butterfly Conservation. Find out more about this local and talented film-maker with a passion for the world.

Profile by Tristram Besterman

There is something about Nina Constable and her films that commands your attention. On her website, you can see films and images that range from the majestic whale shark to the plight of refugees.

Based in Cornwall, this young documentary film-maker was commissioned in 2016 by CBC to make a video about the work of the branch. During the course of the year, Nina joined in various events to film our volunteers and what they do for CBC. What marks her out is her passion for natural history and the stories of the people whom she meets in the course of her work. Nina really cares: and it shows. "I hope to communicate my own fascination through my work – but to do so without projecting too much of myself. I learn so much with every project. The first field day with CBC that I attended, I was bowled over by the sheer hard graft of everyone toiling up and down a near-vertical slope to create a better habitat for butterflies". That was at Tucking Mill on the edge of Bodmin Moor, where CBC volunteers were clearing scrub to encourage Dog Violets, the food-plant preferred by the caterpillars of the endangered Pearl-bordered Fritillary.

"It's about ordinary people doing extraordinary things with very little to make the world a better place. That's such an important message, isn't it?"

One of the many remarkable things about Nina is the list of clients to her name – Great Western Railway, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, UNICEF and the Marine Megafauna Foundation, to name but a few – an achievement made all the more impressive by the fact that she has been working as a freelance for just over two years. So, how did she establish herself so quickly and successfully?



Nina filming Florence, who farms at Bolatherick (Photo: Tristram Besterman)

"I was very fortunate in my first commission: my client was very loyal and recommended me to other people." Her success might also owe something to the way in which she engages with her subjects and the quality of the films she makes.

Nina's dual focus, on people and the natural world, reflects her interest in both the arts and sciences. A formative influence was David Attenborough: "When I was young, I watched *The Life of Mammals* again and again", she recalls. Her effortless ability to connect with people springs from being a good listener and a deep empathy. "Your heart will be broken many times", warned her mother. Acknowledging parental influence, slightly wistfully reflecting on the path untrod, Nina took a degree in English at Reading University, where she spent a great deal of time developing film in the dark room. In her final year, Nina shoe-horned science into her arts degree by writing a dissertation which explored Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* in the context of literature and drama.

A year later, Nina enrolled at Bristol University to take a Master's in Documentary Film-Making. "The course was 50/50 theory and practice. It gave me an important grounding in best documentary practice, with a clear focus on ethics, truth, treatment of subjects and integrity in story-telling. The documentary film-maker has a huge moral responsibility to

their subjects and to their audience." Nina found herself once more on a course of study where her interest in natural history contrasted with the societal and anthropological preoccupations of fellow students but the challenge seems to have honed her own sense of purpose as well as widened her horizons.

Astute, compassionate and self-effacing, the values and experiences that are shaping this film-maker rely also on a steely determination and courage. Soon after gaining her Master's, Nina was filming overseas with American artist Samantha Robison, through her charity, aptART, which works with young people displaced by conflict, from Syria to the Congo. Nina was able to help Samantha by creating videos of the inspirational work that aptART has done with children in refugee camps. Beautifully crafted, the resulting films pack a huge emotional punch and soon attracted the attention of the United Nations. Nina's free-lance career had taken off.

If this seems a million miles from clearing gorse for butterflies in Cornwall, Nina sees the connections. "It's about ordinary people doing extraordinary things with very little to make the world a better place. That's such an important message, isn't it?" She cherishes several memories of filming with CBC. "There was Malcolm's performance of his song, *Bogs, Boots and Butterflies* at the AGM, and interviewing Jeremy Thomas. And crawling around on my hands and knees with Sally Foster looking for Marsh Fritillary caterpillars and larval webs", she recounts with a happy smile.



Volunteers on a practical conservation day for the Pearl-bordered Fritillary, March 2016 (Photo: Sally Foster)

Nina was struck by the expertise that she encountered in the group and a generosity of spirit.

"Everyone seemed so eager to share their knowledge, which doesn't always happen in the natural world. In CBC it was never about egos, it was always about butterflies."

Recording

Recording is so important, because it helps monitor both local and national trends in butterfly numbers and distribution. Find out more about how you can help on these pages from our County Butterfly Recorder, Dick Goodere, and our Transect Coordinator, Jim Barker. See also page 16 for a report from the County Moth Recorder, Leon Truscott.



Silver-washed Fritillaries (Photo: Philip Hambly)

County Recorder's report

Once again, many thanks to all those people who have sent in their butterfly records this year. The number of records received appears to be down from 2015, but at the time of writing (November 2016) it is difficult to be sure, since many seasoned recorders do not send their records in until the end of the year. I have also noticed an increasing trend to use the iRecord Butterflies app: these records are automatically sent to Butterfly Conservation and not sent back to County Recorders for verification until January. Similarly there will be records from the Garden Watch and the Migrant Watch, as well as the Big Butterfly Count, which have just arrived.

I would like to emphasise the importance of sending your records to me if you have not already done so. They not only contribute to analysis of long term trends, but they also enable us to focus on the most threatened butterflies and where we can best direct our monitoring and practical conservation work. Initial reports from Butterfly Conservation indicate a drop in numbers nationwide, so it will be interesting to see if this is also the case in Cornwall.

Dick Goodere

records@cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk

Transect Coordinator's report

"Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell numbers crash in the Big Butterfly Count" was one of the newspaper headlines at the end of October. Is this true in Cornwall? The Cornwall results for the Big Butterfly Count have only just arrived, but we do have the figures from our weekly counts on the 34 transects walked this summer.

We now have transects at each corner of the county. Tidna Valley (SS208150), near Morwenstow, is new this year; Greenscombe Woods at Luckett is right on the bank of the Tamar north of Callington; and down on the south-east corner we have Watch House Field, near Torpoint. This last transect is the only one to report Marbled Whites. In the south-west, we have St Martins in Scilly, with the second highest butterfly count after Upton Towans, although the species count of 12 is many less than the 25 at Upton.

This year we have 11 new routes, although we have lost two very good ones on the Lizard, one of which used to have a huge number of Small Skippers, so this year Small Skipper is one of the big losers against 2015. The Clouded Yellow almost disappeared (3 vs. 25), although the Painted Lady increased from 196 to 256.



Emerging Gatekeeper on new transect at Treveal in July (Photo: Jim Barker)

So back to the Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell: Peacocks are down from 620 on 26 transects to 383 on 27 sites, whereas the Small Tortoiseshell increased by three from 296 to 299, but was seen on only 23 sites as opposed to 25 last year. Fritillaries were down this year, except for the Heath, which increased from 69 to 79. The big increases were: Large, Small and Green-veined Whites, as well as almost double the number of Orange Tips. Red Admiral, Speckled Wood and Meadow Brown increased but the Gatekeeper decreased following several good years.

Moths in 2016 (UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme asked for these to be counted this year, and more walkers obliged): 17 species and 498 insects, with

Silver Y at 257 and Speckled Yellow at 76, plus Oak Eggar, Hummingbird Hawkmoth, and Five- and Six-spot Burnet in double figures.



A Marsh Fritillary hopped onto Jim Barker's finger. Who was counting who? (Photo: Amanda Scott)

We have lost the Purple Hairstreak from 2015 (two), but gained the Grizzled Skipper (four on one walk), and we hope next year to have a transect around the De Lank Quarry area to count Pearl-bordered Fritillaries, which have been missing for many years. The Marsh Fritillary is more difficult to count on a transect, although the coastal path south of Mullion Cove has a large number in the Natural England area, so if anyone would like to walk here we could include it in future. I'm not sure if the Marsh Fritillary in the photo is counting me or I am counting it?

We will be holding some transect workshops in 2017, one at Gwithian, and I am booked to do one at Newquay College. Total butterflies seen on transects were 32 species and 23214 insects. This compares with 32 &19381 respectively.

We also have the Wider Countryside Butterfly Scheme (WCBS), where walkers do two or more walks in July and August over a kilometre square. Six of these squares were walked this year, and 19 species and 574 insects were seen. Meadow Brown, Speckled Wood, Large White and Ringlet were the top four, with Silver-washed the only Fritillary.

Please get in touch if you are interested in starting a transect: jimfrances@talktalk.net, or phone 01736 794134.

What about those White-letter Hairstreak sightings?

Over the last couple of years or so, we've been getting some tantalising records of White-letter Hairstreaks, long absent from Cornwall. Jim Barker fills us in on the latest news.

> *"Dr Tom Brereton from Butterfly Conservation in Lulworth counted two of our WCBS squares while on a cycling holiday in August 2016, and rung me one Friday morning to report a White-letter Hairstreak near Blisland, unfortunately not on one of the squares.*
>
> *The last record in Cornwall was in the Atkinsons' garden at Stoke Climsland in 2014. A couple of visitors have commented to me about the number of Elms in Cornwall, and were we counting White-letter Hairstreaks? Several people (Phil Harris particularly) spent a lot of time a few years ago without result, but it is worth investigating Elm trees during the flying period. Tom was watching some Speckled Woods and thought it didn't look right, got out the binoculars and confirmed the sighting. He did try to get near enough for a photo but the Hairstreak flew away and didn't reappear".*

Jim Barker, Transect Coordinator

As butterfly and moth season starts, keep up to date with all our latest news and sightings by following us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Butterfly-Conservation-Cornwall-787896031272272/. We'd love you to share your photos on the page, too.

Membership News

Our Membership Secretary, Kathy Wood, reports on a successful year.

Butterfly Conservation used to be a small and little-known organisation. Even people who had heard of it often didn't know that it was something that members of the public without any particular expertise could join. This is gradually changing, and one indicator of that is the rapidly increasing membership, which in November 2016 stands at 433 households (up from 337 in May 2015) and 566 individuals. That's an increase of 19%: the highest nationally compared to all Branches, although we remain one of the smallest. Butterfly Conservation and our Cornwall Branch depend on the income from membership, which is the only predictable income available to spend on any of our charitable aims, rather than being reserved for a particular project. The more members we have, the more we can do for Lepidoptera in Cornwall.

When I took up the post of Branch Membership Secretary in April 2015, I aimed to increase the number of members, not just by recruiting more new supporters, but also by making more effort to retain existing members. With the help of other members and committee members this is succeeding. Here are some of the ways it is being done:

I send a welcoming message to each new member, telling them about our activities and encouraging them to join in. I must apologise to new members of whose existence I was only made aware of after six months had elapsed, but communications have since been improved, so generally it has been working well.



Kehelland Apple Day (Photo: Jo Poland)

We have been represented at public events, such as Kehelland Apple Day, Zelah Fun Day and King Edward Mine Open Day. All have allowed us, free, a stall, where we have displayed live

moths and caterpillars, provided activities for children, educational leaflets, and taken the opportunity to explain to people why Lepidoptera matter, and how they can help.

We have attractive butterfly picture postcards, labelled with our Branch contact details and explaining what Butterfly Conservation does and how people can help; these can be given out to interested members of the public when we are out on conservation days, field trips and transects, or at a public event. They are also given to each member of the audience (W.I.s, garden clubs etc.) at the butterfly talks which member Shaun Poland delivers as part of his business.

Our Press Officer, Roger Hooper, has been on Radio Cornwall twice in the last year, talking about rare butterflies and the work we do for their benefit.

Our website and Facebook page have been vastly improved and are getting noticed. Their addresses now appear in each edition of our magazine so that more people will be encouraged to look at them and keep in touch with our activities.

We have been trying to obtain current email addresses for more members so that we can send everyone occasional news, as well as notice of those forthcoming events which are not arranged far enough ahead to appear in our Cornwall Butterfly Observer. The events are also well advertised to the general public: the Bee Talk evening brought us seven new members.

Please help us expand: see ideas on our website and in our last Observer (Issue 60).

Thank you.

A volunteer's tale

Sue Allen, one of the Branch's amazing group of volunteers, tells us how she got into conservation work, and what it means to her.

I took early retirement in 2011, aged 58, when my grandson came to live with me. It has been hard work being a single parent to a teenager. I gradually lost touch with my friends and work colleagues, as we had little in common any more.

I started volunteering in a charity shop in 2015, sorting donations, and came face to face

with consumerism and our throwaway society. The shop itself generated loads of unsold goods: no one considered recycling, the amount of electricity they were using, or the possibility of giving things to homeless charities. It was not joined up thinking.



A group of keen volunteers getting a health and safety briefing before heading out to do conservation work in De Lank Quarry. Sue Allen is fifth from the right (Photo: Malcolm Pinch).

Earlier this year I saw an appeal from the Wildlife Trust for volunteers. I was invited to join in the following Wednesday. Since then, I have worked every Wednesday possible. The work is largely physical, clearing invasive species, cutting back willow, gorse, bramble etc., and improving environments for target species.

"It is brilliant being out in the countryside, being useful and following my passion for the outdoors."

Our leader also signposted other wildlife organisations and activities. I have gone for walks with botanists, geologists, and bird and butterfly experts. I have learned a lot, met interesting people and feel really positive.

Doing this sort of conservation work often gives you access to sites that are closed to the public. Recently, I had a great day out with Cornwall Butterfly Conservation at De Lank Quarry cutting back willow but sadly wasn't free to go back for the bonfire!

It is brilliant being out in the countryside, being useful and following my passion for the outdoors. I always look forward to volunteering days, have now joined Butterfly Conservation and found a new group of like-minded people – and more opportunities to volunteer!

Moth report 2016

Leon Truscott, County Moth Recorder for Cornwall, gives us the moth news for 2016.



Horse Chestnut (*Pachycnemia hippocastanaria*), recorded by Andy and Shirley Park at Duloe in September 2016 (Photo: Andy and Shirley Park).

At the time of writing (early November), records for 700 species had been received. Overall, species numbers were reasonably good, but numbers of individuals were generally rather low. The following is based almost entirely of records received, with one or two picked up from social media.

A new species for Cornwall, the nationally scarce Horse Chestnut (*Pachycnemia hippocastanaria*), came to light at Duloe on 20th September (Andy and Shirley Park). This species is resident in some southern English counties, such as Dorset, Hampshire and Surrey, and is occasionally recorded in Devon, but has never before turned up in Cornwall.

There was a national influx of *Plutella xylostella* (Diamond-back Moth) from May onwards, and 140 Cornish records (of over 1100) moths were received. The only other regular immigrant moth to do well was Rusty-dot Pearl (*Udea ferrugalis*), with 160 records. There were a few records for each of some less common migrants: *Cydia amplana*, European Corn-borer (*Ostrinia nubilalis*), Gem (*Nycterosea obstipata*), Bordered Straw (*Heliothis peltigera*), Scarce Bordered Straw (*Helicoverpa armigera*), and Small Mottled Willow (*Spodoptera exigua*). There was also a small influx of Jersey Mocha (*Cyclophora ruficiliaria*) in Cornwall during August (records yet to be received). There were two records of Radford's Flame Shoulder (*Ochropleura leucogaster*) from St Agnes, Scilly, on 8th and 19th October (both from Les Finch). Scott

Barron recorded a Clifden Nonpareil (*Catocala fraxini*) in his garden in Hayle on 8th October, probably the ninth record for Cornwall.

Phil Barden trapped a Sombre Brocade (*Dryobotodes tenebrosa*) at Penlee Point on 27th September, probably only the third Cornish record. There were two reports of Clancy's Rustic (*Caradrina kadenii*) in October (Bruce Taggart at Millbrook and Tony Wilson at Callestick).

On 7th July, Bob Heckford and Mark Parsons checked sites on the Lizard for some of our nationally rare species. They found larvae for the Red Data Book (RDB) species *Syncopacma suecicella*, *Prolita solutella* and *Merrifieldia tridactyla*. This successful survey also included records for the scarce and local species *Agonopterix rotundella*, *Srobipalpa artemisiella*, *Aproaerema anthyllidella* and *Dolicharthria punctalis*. Another RDB species, Scarce Merveille du Jour (*Moma alpium*), was recorded at Duloe on 25th June by Andy and Shirley Park. Duloe is near one of the known woodland sites for this species, but this is the first time it's been tempted into their garden!

A number of nationally or locally scarce species were recorded throughout the summer. On 4th June, John Nicholls recorded *Lampronia luzella* at Downderry,



Clifton Nonpareil (*Catocala fraxini*), recorded by Scott Barron at Hayle in October 2016 (Photo: Scott Barron).

the seventh record for Cornwall. On 16th July, *Ypsolopha scabrella* came to light in my Torpoint garden, only the second Cornish record. *Semioscopis steinkellneriana* was first recorded in Cornwall in 2004, since when it has become locally established, but is still scarce. One was recorded at Duloe on 8th May (Andy and Shirley Park). On 18th June, Marilyn Edyvean recorded *Mompha ochraceella* at Porth Joke, the second record for Cornwall (both from this site). On 15th May, Mary Atkinson recorded *Pseudotelphusa paripunctella* at Gunoak Wood, the sixth record for Cornwall. *Acleris umbrana*



Sombre Brocade (*Dryobotodes tenebrosa*), trapped at Penlee Point in September 2016 by Phil Barden, probably only the third Cornish record (Photo: Phil Barden).

has become resident in Cornwall (mostly the southeast) in recent years, but there was only one record in 2016, on 24th August at Downderry (John Nicholls). *Apomyelois bistriatella* was recorded on 15th July at Par Beach by Marilyn Edyvean.

A Leopard Moth *Zeuzera pyrina* was recorded at Landrake on 2nd August by Martin Love. Red-tipped Clearwing (*Synanthedon formicaeformis*) is one of only five Clearwing species found in Cornwall. There were two records in 2016: at Hayle Kimbro on 10th July (Mark Tunmore) and Windmill Farm on 5th August (Andy Pay). There are only four previous records, the last being from Mark Tunmore at two sites, also on the Lizard Peninsula, in 2005. Cloaked Carpet (*Euphyia biangulata*) is irregular and usually scarce in Cornwall. One was trapped by Anita Payne at Brackenfield, near Gunnislake on 6th July. There were two records of Barred Rivulet (*Perizoma bifaciata*): at Porth Joke on 19th July (Marilyn Edyvean) and at Hayle on 30th July (Scott Barron). Marilyn also recorded two Grass Rivulets

(*Perizoma albulata*) at Par Beach on 23rd May, as well as a Broom-tip (*Chesias rufata*) on Goss Moor on 6th May, only the fifth record for Cornwall, and the first since 1999.

Little Thorn (*Cepphis advenaria*) was added to the Cornish list as recently as 2006. There are now a dozen records, including three in 2016: Downgate on 24th May, and New Mill, near Luckett, on 27th May (both Mary and Tony Atkinson), and again at Luckett (Greenscoombe Wood) on 16th June (Marilyn Edyvean). Alder Kitten (*Furcula bicuspis*) is still a scarce species in Cornwall, despite several records in 2015. One came to light at Duloe on 10th May (Andy and Shirley Park). Chocolate-tip (*Clostera curtula*) has become established in Cornwall in recent years, but is still a very local moth. Two came to light at Landrake on 10th May (Martin Love), as did singles at Brackenfield on 17th and 19th July (Anita Payne).

Beautiful Hook-tip (*Laspeyria flexula*) seems to be a scarce visitor to Cornwall. Before 2016 there were only ten records, five of which were in 2013. Two more were added in 2016: at Lawhitton on 16th July (Mary and Tony Atkinson), and at Landrake on 19th July (Martin Love). A Dotted Chestnut (*Conistra rubiginea*) came to light at Goss Moor on 13th April (Marilyn Edyvean). A Lesser-spotted Pinion (*Cosmia affinis*) was recorded at Millbrook on 1st September by Bruce Taggart. A Devonshire Wainscot (*Leucania putrescens*) came to light at Porthgwarra on 21st July (Fred Currie).



Ypsolopha scabrella spotted at Torpoint in July, only the second Cornish record (Photo: Leon Truscott).

Field trips 2017



Grizzled Skipper (Photo: Shaun Poland).

Welcome to Cornwall Butterfly Conservation's programme of field trips for 2017. You will find some of our ever-favourite sites to visit but also some new ones to explore. We have organised a few trips in partnership with other local conservation organisations. We will continue to place a big emphasis on recording during each of our field trips, so that we can build an even better picture of Lepidoptera distribution across Cornwall.

Our field trips are fun and friendly – all (including children) are welcome, whether or not you're a member of Cornwall Butterfly Conservation, and whatever level of experience you have. Please always come prepared for Cornwall's changeable weather and mixed terrain – waterproofs, good walking shoes or boots, sun tan cream etc., as well as water and lunch/ snacks.

Postcodes have now been included in the site details. However, we would warn you that they may not be as accurate as grid references in pinpointing meeting places, particularly on the coastal walks where there are no obvious landmarks and the postcode covers a larger than usual area.

Sunday 14 May: DE LANK QUARRY Near St Breward, 11am to 3pm

This is a beautiful walk down to the De Lank river where there is the opportunity to see the rare Pearl-bordered Fritillary, other spring butterflies such as the Brimstone and view the recent conservation work undertaken by volunteers. Please bring a packed lunch and tough walking shoes. Long trousers and long sleeved shirts are also advised. Meet at the small car park (SX 099753) on the right before the entrance to the Quarry which should not be entered. Postcode PL30 4NQ. Parking is limited so car share where possible. Leaders and contacts: Sally Foster (01736) 753259 and Jo Poland (01872) 540371 jogreenp@gmail.com

Wednesday 17 May: WILD FLOWERS AND BUTTERFLIES OF PENHALE Near Cubert, 10am

This is a joint MOD Conservation Group/Cornwall Butterfly Conservation walk. In addition to seeing a variety of spring wild flowers, we should find, amongst other butterflies, the Grizzled Skipper which is now only located on this site in Cornwall. Please meet by the South Gate near Treworthen Farm, Cubert (SW783567). Postcode for Treworthen Farm, TR8 5PZ. Bring a packed lunch. Places are limited so booking is essential. Leaders: Ian Bennallick (CBG) and Jon Cripps (CWT). Contact for booking Jo Poland (CBC) 01872 540371 jogreenp@gmail.com

Sunday 28 May: PREDANNACK, THE LIZARD Near Mullion, 11am

We have organised this trip in partnership with the Natural England team on The Lizard, and we will be looking for newly emerged Marsh Fritillaries, as well as hearing about the habitat management work which NE have been undertaking for this protected butterfly. Meet at the NT car park at Higher Predannack Wollas farm (SW669162).TR12 7EZ. Leaders: Steve Townsend, Lizard NE team, and Dick Goodere CBC. Contact: Dick Goodere (01736) 75307).

Saturday 3 June: CHAPEL PORTH Near St Agnes, 1pm

Join us in looking for Green Hairstreak butterflies along this beautiful cliff walk. The terrain can be steep and rough in places, but the views are spectacular. Meet at Chapel Porth National Trust beach car park (parking charge for non-NT members) The car park fills up quickly, so car sharing is advised (SW697495). TR5 0NS. Leader and contact: Kathy Wood (01872) 864344

Saturday 10 June: GREENSCOMBE WOODS Near Luckett, 1pm

Come and join us on a field trip to Cornwall's only site for the nationally rare Heath Fritillary butterfly, which is now established here after a successful reintroduction in 2006. Local expert on the species, Richard Vulliamy, will be leading the trip. Meet in Luckett Village car park (SX389737). PL17 8NJ. Leader and contact: Richard Vulliamy (01579) 370411.

Saturday 17 June: CUBERT COMMON Near Crantock, 11am to 3pm

Cubert Common is one of the few enclosed commons in England. It is an undulating area of sandy grassland owned by the National Trust and designated as an SSSI. We will be looking out for a wide variety of butterflies (including Brown Argus, Dark Green Fritillary, Silver-studded Blue, Small Heath) moths, other invertebrates and also rare plants. Meeting point is the National Trust Car Park near Polly Joke beach, Grid Reference: (SW776599) TR8 5QS. This is a relatively small car park so car sharing is advised. Directions: drive through Crantock village and shortly after Crantock turn left onto the road to Treago farm. Drive through the farm and follow the track and park in the National Trust car park (note that at Treago farm there is a gate crossing the track which you will need to open & close). Leaders: Jo & Shaun Poland (01872) 540371 jogreenp@gmail.com

Saturday 1 July: CORNWALL BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION OPEN DAY Near Looe, 12 noon

Philip (Chairman of CBC) and Faith Hambly invite you to their farm at Lethytep, with its wonderful wildlife area with walks and lakes. There should be many mid-summer butterflies flying, and much more besides! Food, including pasties, are provided, plus tombola and raffle. We ask for a £5 donation to help cover food costs. To get to Lethytep (SX175588), PL13 2PG, turn south off the A390 Liskeard to Lostwithiel road at East Taphouse, taking the B3359 to Looe and Polperro. After 3.3 miles take road to right signposted Penadlake: the event will be signposted from here. Park in field next to house (space for 100+ cars). Leader and contact: Philip Hambly (01503) 220385

Tuesday 4 July: UPTON TOWANS Near Hayle, 11 am

Join us on a walk through this extensive sand dune complex situated between Gwithian and Hayle, a Cornwall Wildlife Trust reserve and an SSSI. The main target species will be Dark Green Fritillaries and Silver-studded Blues but there will be many other Lepidoptera and other wildlife to see. Meet by the gate, in front of the large

chimney at the entrance to the CWT reserve (SW 579396). TR27 5BJ Please bring a packed lunch. Leader and contact: Dick Goodere (01736) 753077.

Saturday 8 July: PENLEE RESERVE AND PENLEE POINT Near Rame Head, 11am

We will be led by moth expert and Cornwall Moth Recorder Leon Truscott in looking for Marbled White butterflies, as well as Small Heaths and Dark Green Fritillaries. Six-belted Clearwing and Thrift Clearwing moths can also be found here with the help of pheromone lures. Meet in Penlee Battery car park (SX436491). PL10 1LG. Leader and contact: Leon Truscott (01752) 812023.

Saturday 15 July: CABILLA WOODS Glyn Valley 3 miles east of Bodmin, 1pm

Join us for this walk through the Cornwall Wildlife Trust reserve described as "one of the largest and possibly finest ancient woodland in Cornwall". Our target species is the Silver-washed Fritillary with a chance of seeing the f. valezina. There should also be many other butterflies including Commas, Ringlets and Gatekeepers. Directions: Proceed along the A38 from the A30 heading towards Liskeard. About a mile past the Bodmin Parkway junction, turn left down Le Ball Hill. Cross over a small bridge and immediately turn right There are places for parking. (SX128653) PL30 4BE. Leader and contact Roger Hooper (01209) 820610

Saturday 22 July: WILD FLOWERS AND BUTTERFLIES OF PENHALE Near Cubert, 10am

Join us for a closer look at the wild flowers, butterflies and moths to be found on Penhale Sands Army Training Camp, not normally open to the public. We should find orchids and many species of Lepidoptera on this unique marsh and dune area. Jointly organised with the Cornwall Botanical Group and Cornwall Wildlife Trust, the walk will be led by botanist Ian Bennallick. Please bring a packed lunch. Meet by the South Gate near Treworthen Farm, Cubert (SW783567). Postcode for Treworthen Farm TR8 5PZ. Booking is essential so please contact Dick Goodere from CBC as there are only 10 places available. (01736} 753077
or gooderes@talktalk.net

Sunday 23 July: NEWLYN DOWNS Near St Newlyn East, 1pm

Join us in exploring this SSSI and Special Area of Conservation. We'll be searching for Grayling butterflies, Bog Bush-crickets and Scarce Blue-tailed Damselflies, and much more. Meet in the layby opposite the entrance at SW8368355209. TR8 5LQ (East Wheal Rose

Farm). Leader and contact: Carly Riley (01637) 498462.

Sunday 30 July: GODOLPHIN WOODS Near Godolphin, 1.30pm

Join us for this interesting walk through Godolphin Woods. There will be a wide variety of Lepidoptera but the target species will be the Purple Hairstreak. Directions: Coming from Leedstown, turn left at Townshend, then at Godolphin Bridge the road swings to the left; some distance along this section there is a parking area on the left where a track runs down to the river. It is possible to park here, but it is better to drive down the short track and park in the larger car park at the bottom (on the right) at SW60023243.TR13 9RE. Leaders and contact: Perry Smale and Judi Swift (01736) 448304 or 07412262184.

Sunday 6 August: LUNDY BAY Near Polzeath, 1.30pm

Join us for a beautiful walk along one of our National Trust transects. There will be a selection of butterfly species and the Ranger, Sarah Stevens, will be leading the walk. Meet in the NT Car park SW958798 PL27 6QZ

For further details contact Sarah on: (01208) 863821

Sunday 13 August: KYNANCE COVE Near Lizard 11am

Join us on this wonderfully scenic coastal walk on the Lizard as we look for Clouded Yellow, Grayling, Common Blue and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterflies, and many more species. Meet in the National Trust Kynance Cove car park (SW688131). TR12 7PJ Parking free to National Trust members. Leader and contact: Carly Riley (01637) 498462.

Sunday 20 August: GWENNAP HEAD AND PORTHGWARRA Near Land's End, 10.30am

This beautiful location boasts an abundance of butterflies, including Graylings, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries, Clouded Yellows, Small Heaths and many more. You might also spot a Chough! Meet in the Porthgwarra car park (SW370217): charges apply TR19 6JR. Café. Leader and contact: Jim Barker (01736) 794134.

Butterfly Conservation, Cornwall Branch: Annual General Meeting 2017

The Annual General Meeting of Cornwall Butterfly Conservation will be held on Saturday 22 April from 10am to 4.30pm at St Erme Community Centre, Trispen, Truro TR4 9BD.

The venue is opposite the large Honda garage, just off the main road. All are welcome and entry price on the door is £7 (students £3.50), this includes pasty lunch, savouries, cakes, tea and coffee.

Apart from our now legendary food we have much to interest and intrigue, hence our theme this year: “A box full of Lepidoptera delights!”

This will contain:

Stalls promoting our own work and that of many of our partner wildlife organisations in Cornwall.

Our film: The first public showing of our own film 'Cornwall's Butterflies – Back from the Brink'. A beautifully shot production that we commissioned from professional Falmouth film maker Nina Constable. Nina is dedicated to capturing and exploring the world we live in and believes in the power of film and photography to educate and inspire (read more about Nina on page 6).

Fabulous speakers:

Dr Jason Chapman is Associate Professor at the University of Exeter. His talk will be 'Chasing the high fliers: radar studies of migration in moths’.



Dr Jason Chapman

Dr Chapman is a movement ecologist interested in the evolution of animal migration strategies, and the population and community-level effects of these long-range movements. He studies insects and birds to answer these questions, and uses

novel technologies including biological radars, weather radars, meteorological simulations, tethered flight techniques and genomic approaches to characterise their migration ecology.

Dave Lamacraft is Plantlife's IPA Lower Plants Champion. His talk 'Heavy Metal Lichens and the Wizard Lizard' will look at the work Plantlife have been doing in Cornwall for lichens and bryophytes and their links to butterflies. Plantlife is the national charity that is speaking up for wild plants and actively campaigns on a number of issues affecting our wild plants and fungi.

Sally Foster, Biological Recorder and long standing CBC volunteer will tell us about 'My love affair with the Silver-studded Blue'.

Ellie Mayhew and **Harry Drew**, who are both studying Conservation Biology and Ecology at the University of Exeter will talk on "Gems of the Countryside: Cornwall's Invertebrate Life". This will look at the many fascinating insects that you may meet on a CBC field trip.

And finally, by popular demand, talented songwriter and singer **Malcolm Pinch** will be performing again with the **CBC Volunteer Ensemble**!

We look forward to seeing you all there!

Any questions, ask Jo publicity@cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk

Prospective new committee members should contact the Branch Secretary at least 21 days before the AGM: Kathy Hicks: secretary@cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk or 07870192958



Dave Lamacraft

Who's who? Committee and contacts

If you would like to volunteer, or get more involved with the Branch, please do contact a member of the Committee. We would love to hear from you.

Chairman: Philip Hambly
01503 220385
philip@lethytep.co.uk

Membership Secretary: Kathy Wood
membership@cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk

Branch Secretary: Kathy Hicks
07870 192958
secretary@cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk

Treasurer: Gordon Thomas
01579 320060
gordon.thomas4@btinternet.com

Transect Coordinator and Branch Contact: Jim Barker
01736 794134
jimfrances@talktalk.net

Butterfly Recorder: Dick Goodere
01736 753077
gooderes@talktalk.net

Press Officer: Roger Hooper
rogerwhooper@btinternet.com

Publicity and Fundraising Officer: Jo Poland
01872 540371
publicity@cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk

Health and Safety Officer: Carly Riley
01637 498462
cmhoskin@hotmail.co.uk

Committee Member: Tristram Besterman
t.besterman@btinternet.com

Committee Member: Jim Cooper
01872 560710
jim.cooper57@btinternet.com

Committee Member: Kelly Uren
ktherese@hotmail.co.uk

Webmaster: Shaun Poland
cbcwebmaster@cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk

Newsletter Editor: Amanda Scott
ascott9618@gmail.com

Social Media

Website: http://www.cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk

Like us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Butterfly-Conservation-Cornwall-787896031272272/

Follow us on Twitter: @Cornwall_BC

