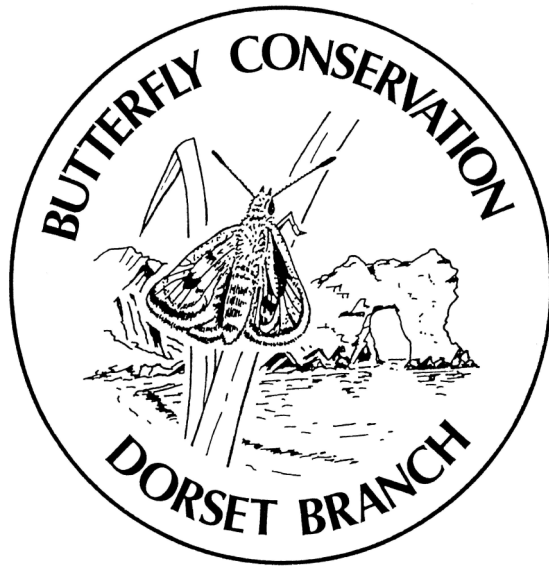


Newsletter No. 77

Autumn 2014

# Dorset Branch



[www.dorsetbutterflies.com](http://www.dorsetbutterflies.com)



**Butterfly  
Conservation**

Saving butterflies, moths and our environment

## Chairman's Letter

*From Jane Smith, Dorset BC Chairman*

No doubt autumn will be well under way by the time you read this, but at the time of writing we are still enjoying warm days with late summer sunshine. Overall I think we will look back on this summer as having been a good one, with above average temperatures and high levels of sunshine, particularly at the height of the butterfly season in July. However, this was followed by the coldest August in almost 20 years, which meant that the flight period for many common butterflies was cut short and others went into early hibernation. The dry weather over much of the summer (following the record rainfall last winter) also affected many species. This was reflected in the results of the Big Butterfly Count: the number of people participating this summer was similar to last year (over 44,000), but the total number of individual butterflies and moths (recorded at 560,000) was two thirds of the number recorded last year (830,000). We await with interest the results of all the counts undertaken in Dorset, which Bill Shreeves will report on early next year, but I suspect that in general they will be similar to the trends observed nationally in the Big Butterfly Count.

Over the late spring and summer months we held or attended over 40 events, including guided walks at top Dorset butterfly locations, identification courses, and attendance at various country shows and festivals throughout the county. We could not run such an active programme without the energy and support of our volunteers and all of the people who help to organise these events. Now that the season for recording is largely over our efforts turn to maintaining our main reserves (as well as other Dorset butterfly sites), and inputting the data recorded throughout the summer so that we can begin analysing the results. As usual the Events List is enclosed with this newsletter, so if

you are interested in joining one of our conservation work parties, hunting for Brown Hairstreak eggs, or attending one of our regional meetings on butterfly trends you will find details there. The Events List also contains details of our Branch Members' Day and AGM to be held next March. Our speaker will be Tom Brereton, BC's Head of Monitoring. All events are listed on our website, [www.dorsetbutterflies.com](http://www.dorsetbutterflies.com), which will also include any additional events arranged after the Events List went to press.

After many years of stability in the make-up of the Branch Committee there will be several resignations at the AGM next March, with some long standing committee members standing down. Those resigning are myself as Branch Chair, Richard Belding as Conservation Officer and Vice Chair, Allan Higgin as Branch Treasurer and Bridget de Whalley as Display Coordinator.

Richard Belding was first elected to the committee in 2004 as Conservation Officer, but took on the additional role of Vice Chair in 2006 before becoming Acting Chair for a year in 2010. Richard has made a vital contribution to the Branch over the last 10 years and will be a loss to the committee. However, he has offered to continue in the role of Conservation Officer as a non-committee member, so his contribution will continue.

Bridget de Whalley was first elected to the committee in 2006 as Display Stall Organiser, although she had been filling this role for several years previously. She works tirelessly throughout the summer months with her team of supporters attending shows and branch events with the display stall. This acts as a magnet for children, who are fascinated by the moths and caterpillars that are usually on display. The stall has played an important role in recruiting new members to the branch over the years, as well as generating income

from sales and donations. Bridget will leave a huge gap on the committee.

Allan Higgin has had two spells as a committee member, the first being in the late '90s and early 2000s. His current spell as Branch Treasurer began in 2007, coinciding with the transfer of all branch accounts to computerised reporting. Under Allan's care, the accounts have been kept in immaculate order, and he has kept our finances under control during several complex periods involving grant funding for our projects and reserves. We are all indebted to him for his excellent stewardship of our finances.

I joined the committee in 2004 as Branch Secretary, and took on the additional role of Branch Contact in 2005. In 2010, I gave up the role of Secretary for a year, but remained as Branch Contact until, in 2011, I was elected Branch Chair. After 3 years in that role, I feel that it is time to step down. Although challenging at times, being Branch Chair has been very satisfying and rewarding. However, last year was very difficult for me for personal family reasons and I no longer feel that I have the energy or desire to lead the branch forward.

It is therefore time to let someone else take over. I have been very fortunate to be supported by a wonderfully committed and talented group of people on the committee, as well as in the branch as a whole. Although the make-up of the committee is changing, I feel sure that the Branch will continue to act as a powerful force for butterflies and moths in Dorset.

This will not happen of course if no one is prepared to take on any of these roles. Would you consider filling one of our vacancies? It is very rewarding, and sometimes fun! Please think about it, and contact me or another committee member if you would like to know more about any of the roles.

I hope you have a good winter, and that it does not bring any extreme weather this year!

*Jane Smith*

---

### **Notes on the 2013 BC AGM and Members' Day**

*By Nick Howell*

The 2013 Butterfly Conservation AGM and Members' Day, hosted by the Wiltshire Branch, was held on November 13<sup>th</sup> at the Swindon Marriott Hotel, where purple hairstreaks fly in the mature oaks. The business of the AGM was completed and Mike Fuller, the Wiltshire recorder, gave the first talk of the day about the fluctuating fortunes of the county's butterflies. One theme seemed to be the role of the MoD in providing and protecting good habitat on Salisbury Plain, where Marsh Fritillary has done well. The trend, as elsewhere, is down, but Porton Down has the best colony of Silver-spotted Skippers in the UK and the Purple Emperor has had a very good year; 10 or 12 attended Matthew Oates' 60<sup>th</sup> birthday party! Wiltshire remains a rich county for butterflies, and the branch has produced a guide called Butterfly Walks in Wiltshire; details are on their website. An interesting observation was the difference in numbers of Purple Hairstreak seen on a transect depending on the time of day it is walked: low during the day, high in the evening.

Tom Brereton, BC Head of Monitoring, took his brief to cover the long-term changes in butterflies very seriously and went back to the end of the last ice age. He suggested that the first species to recolonise a tundra-like Britain would have been the alpine and Arctic species. After the flooding of the land bridge to Europe, c. 7000 BCE, there was little

change in the number of species up until 1750, although the Middle Ages may have been a golden age because of the varied patterns of habitat management, such as small-scale organic farming, pollarding, coppicing and hedge-laying. From 1750, industrialisation and the scientific study of butterflies, mainly through collecting, took off. Thomas Moffet had already published his "Theatre of Insects" in 1634, which described, but did not name, a number of butterflies. Subsequent authors carried on his work, and the first distribution maps were produced by E.B.Ford in 1945, although by then the first extinctions had also occurred; the Large Copper was lost from the fens in 1851 probably due to habitat loss through drainage.

The loss of habitat and the fall in prevalence of butterflies was accompanied by the first systematic monitoring in 1963, and the development of the Butterfly Monitoring Scheme in 1976 which was merged in 2006 with the Butterfly Conservation transect project to create the UKBMS; a recognition of the value of butterflies in monitoring the environment. One key figure to come out of the monitoring is that 70% of species are in decline. Dr Brereton suggested, however, that perhaps population fluctuations need to be seen over centuries, rather than years or decades.

Phil Sterling had the difficult after lunch slot for his talk "Small but not brown", in which he looked at the diversity of micro-moths. He made sure that the audience were awake by asking "why do people not like micros?": "too small", "boring", "for nerds" came the shouts. Having risked losing his audience by pointing out the insignificant numbers of butterflies compared to moths, Dr Sterling won them over with the complexity, ingenuity and weirdness of the lives of the moths he featured. The bag moth, *Acanthopsyche atra*, has an extraordinary life cycle. The sexes are dimorphic, with the female being legless and wingless. She lives in a bag of leaf litter on heathland, and after mating she drops to the ground, pink and maggot-like, in the hope of being eaten by a bird; her fertile eggs then hatch in the bird's droppings!

The truth is that the new book by Phil Sterling, Mark Parsons and Richard Lewington has already opened the world of micro-moths to a new group of enthusiasts, which is growing rapidly.



The micro moth *Alabonia geoffrella*. The micro moth guide by Sterling, Parsons and Lewington has helped the dispel the myth that 'micros' are dull and boring.

Since 2007 a project to improve habitat and ensure sustainability has been running on the limestone of Morecombe Bay. Martin Wain, the project officer, talked about its aims and successes. Hard work and negotiation has linked together the patchwork of different habitats with several owners on a landscape scale using grants to enable sympathetic management, and community involvement through the removal of wood for fuel. The culmination has been the site's designation as a Nature Improvement Area. Attempts to identify the effect on butterflies have been hampered by the bad weather of 2011 and 2012, but the work, mainly woodland management, has been effective.

After tea, volunteers and professionals were recognized in an awards ceremony which was followed by the keynote address, "Sky Wars: Moths v Bats", by Professor Gareth Jones of Bristol University. He discussed the possibility that moths had evolved different adaptations in response to the pressure of predation by bats, and that bats had responded with their own strategies. It seems likely that the moths have developed their range of survival features (ears, clicks, scales and behavioural strategies) in response to bats, which are their principal predators. What is less clear, is whether the apparent counter-adaptations in bats are a response to the moths' armoury of defences, as predator and prey may be under different selective pressures. For instance a bat might echolocate quietly in woods to avoid the background clutter of echoes from trees.

However, Dr Jones and his colleagues have discovered that Barbastelle bats do call very quietly in the open, and catch a lot of eared moths. The result was a surprise because it is unusual for a predator to win an arms race when the pressures are so unequal: death for the moth, dinner for the bat. Sometimes it is unclear as to whether new knowledge comes from foresight or chance. One bat enthusiast has collected the droppings of greater horseshoe bats for fifty years, and new techniques will now allow DNA analysis to be carried out on these. This will give an insight into the effects of climate change and agricultural intensification on the bats' changing diets, including which moths are increasing or decreasing and when they were eaten.

The meeting closed with a warm round of applause for the Wiltshire Branch for hosting a lively and fascinating day.

*Editor's note: As you can see, the National AGM and Members' Day is a great day out with plenty of interest for attendees. If anyone is interested in going along, the 2014 event will take place on Saturday November 15<sup>th</sup> at Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire.*

2012 and 2013 could hardly have been more different weather-wise. In 2012, “Washout summer hampers butterflies” was the headline following on from the results of the Big Butterfly Count, whereas “Hot summer helps butterflies bounce back” was the conclusion of the 2013 survey. These two extremes highlight the influence that weather has over our butterfly populations. However, it’s a complex interaction and sometimes the results are not as we might expect; for example, the Big Butterfly Count 2014 found decreases in the numbers of many species despite seemingly perfect early summer conditions. It is easy to become fixated on summer weather as that is when butterflies are at their most conspicuous, but of course every species is present throughout the year in one form or another. The weather in the months preceding the adults’ flight period will therefore also have a major influence on populations.

In terms of its effect on butterflies, temperature is one of the most important aspects of weather. As expected, abnormally cool and cloudy conditions during the flight period are universally bad (while in contrast, warm sunny conditions are ideal). As adult butterflies rely on their environment for heat, cold conditions severely restrict their activity. If there are long spells of cool weather during the flight period then fewer matings will occur and fewer eggs will be laid, likely resulting in a drop in numbers the following year. In contrast, cool conditions over winter are beneficial for our hibernators as they prevent them from breaking dormancy early. Unusually mild spells during winter often cause butterflies to emerge from hibernation, but these individuals may then suffer if they fail to find a suitable location to go back into hibernation before cool conditions return. On the other hand, consistently low temperatures throughout the winter keep the

butterflies inactive and allow them to emerge in sync when warm conditions return in the spring. Indeed it is often suggested that the Camberwell Beauty cannot colonise the UK as the relatively warm, wet winters usually prevent its successful hibernation. Essentially, low temperatures are very helpful when a butterfly is supposed to be inactive (over winter), but bad news when it needs to be getting on with business (during the flight period).

The same applies to the early stages: from egg, to caterpillar to chrysalis. Among British species, some spend the winter at the egg stage (e.g. Essex Skipper), some as caterpillars (e.g. Purple Emperor) and some as chrysalises (e.g. Duke of Burgundy). Studies have suggested that winter conditions



Small Tortoiseshell - The greater the time spent as a caterpillar, the lower the chances of reaching adulthood.

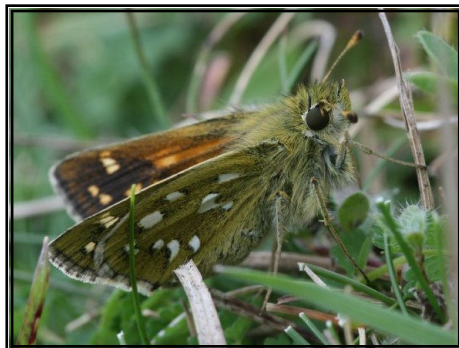
probably have a fairly limited effect on butterfly numbers in the following summer, and it’s likely that our species are by now well equipped to deal with the extreme variability of British winter weather. However, once again, it is often suggested that cooler conditions over winter should be favourable in these early stages of development. Low temperatures reduce the activity of invertebrate predators and parasitoids, which should result in a higher survival rate of eggs, caterpillars and pupae. As with adult butterflies, unusually cool conditions are not beneficial when any of these life stages actually needs to be ‘doing something’. Developmental rate increases as



temperature increases (up to a point), so warm weather will allow eggs and chrysalises to develop faster and caterpillars to feed up more rapidly. The longer this process is protracted, the greater the time an egg/caterpillar/chrysalis is exposed to the risk of being discovered by a predator, eaten by a grazing cow or trodden on by a human etc. Consequently good weather prior to the emergence of adults is just as important as good weather during the flight season in helping to boost numbers.

Rainfall is another important component of weather for butterflies. As with low temperatures, high rainfall during the flight season is detrimental to adult butterflies as it prevents them from becoming active. Long periods of heavy rain could also potentially flood out or drown badly positioned eggs, caterpillars and pupae too. However, rain can be important in encouraging growth of larval foodplants so, depending on the time of year, wet spells can result in increased populations of certain species. This was demonstrated in 2012, where heavy rain in early summer led to lush grass growth, which seems to have driven population explosions in some of our grass-feeding browns (including Meadow Brown, Ringlet and Marbled White).

At the other end of the scale, drought can also negatively affect our butterflies. Short swards may be particularly susceptible, as extended periods of drought can quickly desiccate the low-growing vegetation. As a result, major droughts can lead to population crashes in some of our chalk downland species such as Silver-spotted Skipper, and Chalkhill and Adonis Blue.



Silver-spotted Skipper



Rain isn't always bad news: Ringlets can do well in wet years as there will be lush growth of the grasses on which the caterpillars feed.

Overall, it is clear that weather will play a very important role in determining how many butterflies we'll see each year. The impression has been that we have had more 'bad' years than 'good' recently, but the change between 2012 and 2013 should provide encouragement. After what seemed like a terrible year, butterfly populations might have been expected to have been well down, no matter how good conditions were in 2013; but in fact what we saw was an extremely impressive recovery as favourable weather conditions returned. The number of eggs produced per female varies between species, but can run into the hundreds. This means that even in the poorest summer, a brief sunny spell could result in a few successful matings which, in turn, could potentially lead to thousands of eggs being laid. All it would then take is favourable winter and spring conditions for us to see a good emergence of butterflies over the following summer. Our British butterflies are hardy insects, so even when conditions seem disastrous it is likely that all but the rarest species or smallest colonies will manage to 'weather it out'.

## **Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey 2014 – Square SU0210**

***By John Parr***

As many of you will know, the Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey (WCBS) involves walking two pre-defined kilometre survey lines within a particular Ordnance Survey square, recording and counting all butterfly species seen within each two hundred metre stretch of the route. A minimum of two visits are carried out each year - one in July and one in August. There are weather criteria to be met before a survey can be carried out, but basically if it is warm and reasonably sunny then conditions are fine!

Our involvement with the scheme began in 2009 when Carol and I were living in North Norfolk. We were allocated a square near our home village of Little Snoring, and thoroughly enjoyed setting up the route and performing the surveys in 2009 and 2010.

In late 2010 we relocated to Verwood in east Dorset. DIY intervened for a while, but we were keen to continue our WCBS activities and were offered square SU0210. This square is in a beautiful area of farmland just off the B3078 north of Wimborne Minster. The ruins of Knowlton Church sit roughly in the middle of the square.

2014 was our third year of surveying this square. As we were planning a trip up north in late July (hoping to find Large Heath and Scotch Argus!) we decided to pay our first visit of the year on 3rd July. The weather was excellent with clear blue skies and temperature in the mid twenties.

Section one of our route follows a country lane down a gentle incline, with high banks on both sides. We were soon recording Meadow Browns, Ringlets, Large Skippers and a couple of Small Tortoiseshells. Of particular note were a couple of Commas – a species we had not previously seen in the square. Variation in land use and ground conditions between surveys has obviously had an

effect on the butterflies seen. Section two in 2012 was being grazed by cattle, and in 2013 was completely waterlogged and almost impassable. This year was different again – reasonably dry but with the grass cut short, so few flowers and very few butterflies.

Sections three to five run NE along a fence line close to a small stream. Last year this area was occupied by a very inquisitive herd of young cattle which made surveying a little tricky! This year they were grazing elsewhere, leaving us in peace. Our first Red Admiral was recorded here, along with a smattering of Meadow Browns and Ringlets. Five more Small Tortoiseshells were also seen in this area plus a few Whites. Banded Demoiselles were flying in good numbers along the edge of the stream.

To reach the second kilometre stretch of our survey route we have to cross over a small stream. In previous years we have searched in vain for a way to cross this but always ended up with wet feet. This year we went prepared with wellies! Sections six to eight cross an area of well grazed pasture in a fairly straight line. In July this area has usually been good for Meadow Browns, with twenty four recorded in July 2012 and fifty eight in 2013. This year only eight were recorded, along with a couple of Whites, three Skippers and a single Small Tortoiseshell.

Section nine runs along the edge of a cultivated field and is our favourite part of the route. The field margin always seems to have plenty of wild flowers, on this occasion attracting thirteen Small Tortoiseshells, two Small/Essex Skippers, plus Large White, Red Admiral and Meadow Brown. To complete the route, section ten runs along a hedgerow where another Comma was recorded, along with Small Tortoiseshell, Large Skipper, Large White, Meadow Brown and Ringlet.

And so to the August visit. Having been prevented from surveying early in the month the weather then turned against us. At one point it seemed that we may not get a suitable day before the month ended,

but finally the weather improved and we managed a visit on the 31st. Temperature was 20 degrees, with a mix of sun and light cloud. Ground conditions were fine and the survey was carried out without difficulty – apart from section 5. The cattle were back and grazing in this part of the field making surveying tricky and potentially a little hazardous! Over previous years August has provided fewer butterfly sightings than July. Perhaps because of the later survey, sightings were even fewer this year – just a handful of Small Whites and a solitary Red Admiral.

The records were entered on-line through the simple interface provided by the scheme and that was it for 2014. After a year or two you begin to feel an 'ownership' for the square. It is interesting to watch the variation in species seen and numbers across the various sections of the route – an area which was full of wild flowers and butterflies in July had no flowers and no butterflies in August. An area devoid of nectar sources on one survey had thistles in flower on another, attracting species such as Small Tortoiseshell. We look forward to surveying 'our square' in 2015!

*If you would be interested in 'adopting' a square and surveying it for the WCS next year, please get in touch with Adrian Neil, the co-ordinator of the survey in Dorset (contact details on the back page).*



Banded Demoiselle: you'll see more than 'just' butterflies when you're out surveying,

## **Robert Macfarlane, The Old Ways and Butterfly Walking**

***By Bill Shreeves***

The book which has given me the most enjoyment this year has been Robert Macfarlane's "The Old Ways – A Journey on Foot", first published by Hamish Hamilton in 2012. This is the third of a loose trilogy following on from "Mountains of the Mind", which I have not yet read, and "The Wild Places", which was a fascinating exploration of whether there are any such places in Britain. Currently a Fellow of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and recently Chair of the Booker Prize, Robert Macfarlane's books contain a satisfying mix of natural history, geology, archaeology and literature. In his Author's Note at the front of the book he explains that "it tells the story of walking a thousand miles or more, along old ways in search of a route to the past, only to find myself delivered again and again to the contemporary".

The most heart rending illustration of this 'contemporary' is the description of his 'sarha' (Arabic, translated roughly as a wander) with his Palestinian friend in the West Bank in 'open country' between the Jewish Settlements and the Palestinian villages, but zoned as 'C', or 'out of bounds to Palestinians', by the Israelis. The book, he continues, "is an exploration of the ghosts and voices that haunt ancient paths, the tales that tracks keep and tell, of pilgrimages and trespass, of song-lines and their singers and of the strange continents that exist within countries". Central to his philosophy is the beautiful Aborigine creation 'Myth of the Dreamtime', where the Ancestors emerged to find the earth a black, flat and featureless terrain. However, as they began to walk they released the sleeping life beneath the crust and each Ancestor scattered a trail of words and musical notes along the line of his footprints. These became the 'dream' or song lines which Australian aborigines have been struggling to preserve ever since.



It is Robert Macfarlane's argument that the old tracks of Britain, Europe and the World can be viewed in the same way. His account of his 'walk' along part of the ancient English chalk ridgeway (technically this 'walk' was actually a cross country ski in winter!) welds together the geology and natural history of chalk downland with the Neolithic earthworks, the poetry of Edward Thomas (killed on the front in World War I) and the paintings of Eric Ravilious (lost when the bomber he was attached to as a war artist in Iceland failed to return from a mission). Both of them had walked and loved the ancient chalk tracks which are the equivalent of the Aborigine song lines. Other journeys describe 'walks' across peat, granite, silt, limestone, water and ice and unlock the natural history, archaeology, music, art and poetry which they contain.

What, however, is this book appreciation doing in a newsletter devoted to Dorset butterflies? It is not that Robert Macfarlane has very much to say about butterflies. In a unique index of selected subjects at the back of the book, in which plants, mammals and birds are very well represented, butterflies don't get a mention and moths only by a brief reference to 'ragwort seething with cinnabar caterpillars'. It was while reading Macfarlane's description of chalk downs - "the turf contributing a cocoa-matting of plant life whose natural springiness exceeds that of even peat, such that your foot bounds up from contact with it .. and there are the birds of the Downs, its true gliders and soarers – buzzards, owls, kestrels, skylarks, rooks and swifts, tracking always overhead"- that I thought of Fontmell Down and had one of those rare eureka moments. Fontmell Down is just one of over a thousand butterfly 'transect' walks criss-crossing over the UK and the rest of the World. Had Robert Macfarlane been aware of them he might have predicted that they would, in time, become worthy extensions to the hollow-ways, pilgrim routes and song lines about which he has written. It is true that many of us who butterfly walk do so as 'citizen scientists', following a set route and obeying strict rules which will provide data to

measure biodiversity and global warming. However most of us also follow this weekly summer routine because it is exciting, exhilarating and it keeps us in touch with both the regular and irregular changes of the seasonal calendar. The Fontmell Down transect has only been running for 34 years but, to my mind at least, it is already starting to accumulate the ghosts, sounds and memories of the people, animals and insects related to it. Since the Fontmell Down transect was started over 40 people have walked the route and contributed to the data. Their interests and occupations have ranged widely: clergyman, author of a guide to Malaysian butterflies and a biography of Thomas Hardy, a teaching nun/ photographer who often walked in her habit, a night nurse whose early film on butterflies was an inspiration to all of us, a water colour restorer, several teachers, a dentist who wrote a book on South Wales butterflies, many who are, or were, retired, some local but others who drove over, or in one case cycled, from other parts of Dorset or across the border in Wiltshire or Somerset. All have left their marks and on the down and survive in the memories of the walkers.

Many of the butterfly memories are sad and nostalgic such as the vast hoards of Chalkhill Blues which used to nectar on the marjoram in section 11 and the Duke of Burgundies which had a lekking area in section 5. Others memories are more hopeful and recent like the sudden colonisation of the downs by Kidney Vetch closely followed by the arrival of Small Blues, or the clouds of Adonis Blues covering whole slopes in dots of turquoise and clustering together on animal droppings. Some memories are quite sudden and unrepeated, such as the Valezina form Silver Washed Fritillary which glided like a ghost up the treeless chalk slope blissfully unaware that it was supposed to like dark shady woodland, or the Bee Orchid which popped up for one year only in the route of section 9. Multiply up such thoughts and memories as these to all the butterfly walks developing across the world and you have amazing 'dream songs' which might survive alongside the




Adonis Blues at Fontmell Down gathering together to feed.

Photo © Mark Pike

Valuable statistics which have been gathered. There are of course, as always, clouds on the horizon. Some walks have been unable to continue. For example the survival of the Fontmell walk itself is, at the time of writing, threatened by the closure of the link route through the valley bottom which is not owned by the Dorset or National Trust but under private control. We are, in Robert Macfarlane's words, about to be "delivered to the contemporary". Walls and habitat destruction will always stand in the way of song lines and 'sarha'. Hopefully most other walks will survive with both their song lines and statistics preserved intact and running on into the future. Somebody should introduce Robert Macfarlane to butterfly walking!

## Butterfly Haiku - Winter Into Spring


*By Richard Stewart, Branch member*




Beneath a blanket  
Of soft snow on deep ivy  
Yellow brimstones rest.




Earth is still waiting  
For the last melting of snow  
The first butterflies.




Sunlight on hard frost  
And deep within a green pine  
Red admirals stir.




Cold earth is turning  
Slip sliding into the spring  
As icicles melt.



Blue sky and sunshine  
Clusters of bright ladybirds  
The first bumbling bee.



A single peacock  
Out of winter's cold darkness  
Basking in sunlight.



A male orange tip  
Feeds on purple aubretia  
The clash of colours!

### Can you help?

The Branch Information and Display Stall has had another busy and very successful year. We have taken our leaflets and wares to more than 20 events, as well as supporting 7 in-house events (4 Recorder Meetings, 2 workshops and the AGM). Manned by a band of valiant and supportive volunteers, we have sold charts and books, handed out free leaflets, advised about our fabulous reserves and other good butterfly-ing places, as well as interesting the general public in beautiful butterflies and marvellous moths. It seems that caterpillars, especially those furry Garden Tigers, are particularly attractive to the younger visitors (well, everybody actually!) to the stall and we are always delighted to see their enthusiasm. Best of all, we recruit new members to the branch so that we continue to grow in numbers as well as expertise.

Now we are looking for a new Coordinator to continue this good work. All the volunteers (including me) are ready and waiting to continue taking the stall out – we just need one of you to step forward to hold it all together. It could be YOU! For more information please contact me, Bridget, on [stall@dorsetbutterflies.com](mailto:stall@dorsetbutterflies.com), my address on the back of this magazine, or 01258 880 524.

**Bridget de Whalley**

***Greetings!*** *The Branch is delighted to welcome the following new members. We hope to meet you all soon at our events and work parties. Please introduce yourselves to any of the committee members and find out how you can get the most out of your membership and what you can do to help.*

**Mr A Abbott**—Wareham

**Ms A Blakeway**—Wareham

**Mr M Bray**—Bournemouth

**Mrs P E Broadbank**—Poole

**Mrs Z & Mr R Brown & Family**—Wareham

**Mr G & Mrs J Budden**—Bournemouth

**Ms E Bulpit**—Bridport

**Mrs R Calver**—Wareham

**Mrs J Caughlin**—Beaminster

**Mrs J Clark**—Weymouth

**Miss A Copland**—Poole

**Mrs K & Mr M Culverhouse**—Nr  
Dorchester

**Miss P Davis**—Shaftesbury

**Dr J Dinley**—Broadstone

**Mrs M E Dunn**—Dorchester

**Mr A Edwardes**—Bridport

**Mrs S Eveleigh**—Bridport

**Mrs E Ferguson**—Bournemouth

**Miss P I Field**—Poole

**Mr A Green**—Wareham

**Mrs M E & Mr T W Gritt**—Bournemouth

**Mrs M Gudgeon**—Dorchester

**Rev A R Heafield**—Verwood

**Mr J Jarvis & Miss C Mackenzie**—  
Bournemouth

**Mrs J Kent**—Gillingham

**Mr J R & Mrs S Lloyd**—Christchurch

**Mr R & Mrs M Mattocks**—Christchurch

**Mrs W Miners**—Weymouth

**Mr R & Mrs T Moore**—Christchurch

**Mrs C Murgatroyd**—Dorchester

**Mrs J L Nattress**—Wimborne

**Ms V North & Dr R Chapman**—  
Ferndown

**Mrs J Ough**—Wimborne

**Ms A Pardy**—Christchurch

**Mrs N Park**—Sturminster Newton

**Mr N & Mrs J Peay & Family**—  
Stalbridge

**Mrs H Pengelly**—Stalbridge

**Mr L C Philips**—Weymouth

**Mrs K Podesta**—Poole

**Ms R M Porter & Mr D Mitchell**—  
Dorchester

**Ms J Poulsen & Mr I Chapman**—  
Weymouth

**Mr A Salmon & Mrs P Pugh**—  
Portland

**Mr M Rawson**—Ferndown

**Miss K Rickard**—Poole

**Miss J Rizza**—Bournemouth

**Mr C Roughley**—Bournemouth

**Mr P D Salmon**—Broadstone

**Mr P J Shallcross**—Salisbury

**Mr T & Mr N Starnes**—Bournemouth

**Mrs C V Sutcliffe and Family**—Poole

**Miss D Tennancour**—Sturminster  
Newton

**Mr R Heafield & Miss C Trant**—  
Wareham

**Ms M Waters**—Lyme Regis

**Miss A Williams**—Dorchester

**Mrs H M Willmott**—Dorchester

**Mr J Woodruff**—Blandford Forum

## **NEWSLETTER DEADLINES**

**31<sup>st</sup> August**

For mid-September publication

**28<sup>th</sup> February**

For late-March publication

If you would like to submit something for the next newsletter please send your articles in by these dates at the latest. Many thanks to the people that have contributed articles to this current edition.

**We are always in need of articles and line drawings, so please put pen to paper, or your finger to keyboard, and send in your contributions.**

## **TREASURER'S NOTE**

**Bank balance at 1<sup>st</sup>  
October 2014:**

**£21,042**

## **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

All members are welcome to attend committee meetings.

For details of the next meeting please get in touch with Branch Secretary Adrian Neil.

Contact Adrian by phone (01305 832937) or email [adrian.neil@madasafish.com](mailto:adrian.neil@madasafish.com) for details.

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION  
Company limited by guarantee,  
registered in England (2206468)  
Registered Office: Manor Yard, East Lulworth,  
Wareham, Dorset BH20 5QP  
Charity registered in England & Wales (254937)  
and in Scotland (SC039268)  
Tel: 01929 400209 Fax 01929 400210  
email: [info@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:info@butterfly-conservation.org)  
[www.butterfly-conservation.org](http://www.butterfly-conservation.org)

PLEASE NOTE THE OPINIONS  
EXPRESSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE  
NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF  
THE SOCIETY OR THE BRANCH

**All material in this magazine**  
© 2014 Butterfly Conservation Dorset Branch

## **Dorset Branch Who's Who** [www.dorsetbutterflies.com](http://www.dorsetbutterflies.com)

**PRESIDENT:** **Brian Dicker\***  
Sunnydene, Higher Holton, Wincanton,  
Somerset BA9 8AP. 01963 32453  
[b\\_dicker@btinternet.com](mailto:b_dicker@btinternet.com)

**CHAIRMAN:** **Jane Smith\***  
32 King's Road, Sherborne DT9 4HU.  
Tel: 01935814029  
[chair@dorsetbutterflies.com](mailto:chair@dorsetbutterflies.com)

**VICE CHAIRMAN & CONSERVATION  
OFFICER** **Richard Belding\***  
28 Manor Rd, Dorchester DT1 2AU.  
Tel: 01305264868  
[conservation@dorsetbutterflies.com](mailto:conservation@dorsetbutterflies.com)

**SECRETARY, GARDEN RECORDS  
& WIDER COUNTRYSIDE SURVEY:**  
**Adrian Neil\***  
15 Littlemoor Road, Weymouth  
DT3 6LA. 01305 832937  
[secretary@dorsetbutterflies.com](mailto:secretary@dorsetbutterflies.com)

**TREASURER:** **Allan Higgin\***  
6 Firside Road, Corfe Mullen  
BH21 3LS. 01202 691710  
[treasurer@dorsetbutterflies.com](mailto:treasurer@dorsetbutterflies.com)

**MEMBERSHIP & Branch Liaison**  
**Mrs Robin George\***  
Clarence House, Cemetery Rd,  
Gillingham SP8 4BA. 01747824215  
[membership@dorsetbutterflies.com](mailto:membership@dorsetbutterflies.com)

**RECORDS:** **Bill Shreeves\***  
Little Garth, 5 Butts Mead,  
Shaftesbury SP7 8NS. 01747852587  
[records@dorsetbutterflies.com](mailto:records@dorsetbutterflies.com)

**NEWSLETTER:** **Guy Freeman**  
Tel: 07749631235  
[freeman\\_g@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:freeman_g@hotmail.co.uk)

**MEETINGS:** **Arthur Bryant**  
9 Mannington Road, West Moors  
BH22 0JE. 01202 892816  
[meetings@dorsetbutterflies.com](mailto:meetings@dorsetbutterflies.com)

**MOTH CO-ORDINATOR**  
**Bob Steedman\***  
23 Sopwith Crescent, Merley,  
Wimborne, BH21 1SH 01202 884671  
[sopwith23@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sopwith23@tiscali.co.uk)

**SALES STALL:**  
**Kathie & Richard Clarke**  
24 Pound Lane, Shaftesbury  
SP7 8RZ. 01747853236

**WEBSITE CO-ORDINATOR**  
**Lyn Pullen\***  
Cobblers Cottage, 20 High Street,  
Winfrith Newburgh, Dorchester  
DT2 8JW. 01305 853946  
[website@dorsetbutterflies.com](mailto:website@dorsetbutterflies.com)

**DISPLAY CO-ORDINATION**  
**Bridget de Whalley\***  
2 Longmead Cottages, Winterborne  
Stickland DT11 0LZ. 01258 880524  
[stall@dorsetbutterflies.com](mailto:stall@dorsetbutterflies.com)

**RESERVES MANAGER:** **Nigel Spring\***  
346 Mundens Lane, Alveston, Sherborne  
DT9 5HU. 01963 23559 or 07981776767  
[nigelspring@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nigelspring@yahoo.co.uk)

**HEALTH AND SAFETY:**  
**Keith Howland\***  
[keithhowland@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:keithhowland@hotmail.co.uk)

**\* = Branch Committee Member**