

Butterfly Conservation Dorset Branch

Butterfly and Moth Events in Dorset

No. 89

Nov 2018 to April 2019



**Butterfly
Conservation**

Saving butterflies, moths and our environment



SATURDAY 10 NOVEMBER **CONSERVATION ACTION DAY**

Broadcroft Quarry Butterfly Reserve, Portland

9.30 am to 4.00 pm.

We will be working on the regular tasks of grass and clematis/bramble/scrub cutting and would appreciate any additional help available! Hot drinks and cake can be provided but bring your own gloves, mug and a packed lunch.

Broadcroft Quarry was the county's first Butterfly Reserve. An impressive colony of Silver-studded Blues can be found in this quarry reserve and much of the practical management work is aimed at improving the habitats for this species.

For Broadcroft Quarry Reserve, turn left off Easton Road onto Grove Road and about 100 yards on the right is a track (opposite Portland Football Club) which leads to the car park, map reference SY 695 723.

For further information please contact Nigel Spring on 07981 776767, email

nigelspring@yahoo.co.uk

SATURDAY 10 NOVEMBER **NATIONAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

This year's AGM will be take place at The Nottingham Belfry Hotel,

Nottingham NG8 6PY. Full details in the autumn issue 129 of the national magazine 'Butterfly' and on BC national website www.butterfly-conservation.org

WEDNESDAY 14 **NOVEMBER** **CONSERVATION ACTION DAY**

Tidmore Firing Ranges, Chickerell

9.00 am – 4.00 pm.

Butterfly Conservation volunteers have been asked again to continue the work we started in 2017 to improve the grassland at Tidmoor, particularly for butterflies and the highly threatened moth The Dyer's Greenweed Case-bearer *Coleophora vibicella*. So, we are looking for a team of brushcutter operators, snippers and rakers. The main task will be to cut and remove gorse and bramble scrub. Much of this will be done with brushcutters but the more isolated clumps will be removed manually. We will not be burning as the fire risk is too high there. Cut material will be raked up and stacked in holes in the main blocks of gorse.

We will be meeting at 9.00 am for the induction briefing. Road access is through the Wyke Regis Training Camp gates from the B3156 at Charlestown, map reference SY649795 - that's the entrance

further down towards Weymouth from the crossroads, not the main camp entrance.

Bring ID with you in case you are asked for it. Also bring a mug for hot drinks, working gloves and your lunch. If you are a brushcutter operator please make sure you bring your PPE.

If you need to make contact on the day, use this mobile number: 07981 776767. We will be working on the edge of the Fleet so bring binoculars or telescope if you want to see what birds are around. Please could you let Nigel know if you are available to help on this task.

THURSDAY 15 NOVEMBER **BARBERRY MOTH PROJECT** **France Firs, Blandford**

Barberry planting in the wood with Fiona Haynes, Butterfly Conservation Project Officer. This will be of benefit to the extremely rare Barberry Carpet moth. Please let Fiona know in advance if you intend to join the group between 10.30 am and 3.30 pm. Please bring lunch and waterproofs in case of rain. Wear sturdy footwear and bring gloves if you have them. Meet 10.30 am in the parking area at the entrance to the wood between the Higher Shaftesbury Road and Stourpaine, map reference ST 880096.

Contact is Fiona Haynes on 07483

039323 or email fhaynes@butterfly-conservation.org

SUNDAY 25 NOVEMBER **CONSERVATION WORK** **DAY**

Lydlinch Common (North Dorset)

Lydlinch is part of an area crucial to the Marsh Fritillary, Conservation work is vital to ensure that the habitat is kept suitable for its survival at this site. Meet 10.00 am and park in the lay-by outside the village on the north side of the A357 near the turning to Sherborne, map reference ST 737137. The nearest postcode is DT10 2JD.

Contact is Colin Burningham on 01935 873219 or 07849 921594.

SATURDAY 8 DECEMBER **BROWN HAIRSTREAK EGG** **SEARCH**

Alners Gorse and Rooksmoor

This is the chance to take part in the annual Brown Hairstreak egg search for some or all of the day. It is very valuable way to assess the status of this species on the two targeted sites. The Blackmore Vale has traditionally been one of the strongholds of the Brown Hairstreak in the county.

Brown Hairstreak eggs are quite easy to see once you know what to look for and are more easily counted than the elusive butterflies

so this is an important exercise. Training will be given. Wear waterproof footwear and bring a packed lunch if attending all day. The afternoon egg search will be carried out on Rooksmoor. Leader: Dr Martin Warren.

10.00 am Alners Gorse - map reference ST 737100 with lunch at 1 pm.

1.00 pm Rooksmoor meet at the Alners Gorse hut.

Alners Gorse reserve entrance is on the road from Hazelbury Bryan to Kings Stag beside the Hazelbury Bryan village sign and 30 mph sign. Park on the wide straight road verge well away from the dangerous bend, map reference ST 736100.

For further information please contact Nigel Spring on 07981 776767, email

nigelspring@yahoo.co.uk

SUNDAY 6 JANUARY **CONSERVATION ACTION DAY**

Lankham Bottom Reserve

9.00 am – 4.00 pm

Continuing the task of gorse and thorn scrub clearance on this important downland reserve. Today we will be working with the Dorset Countryside Volunteers who are also on

the reserve on Saturday 5th in case anyone would like to join them to work off any Christmas excesses!

There will be hot drinks and cake for refreshments.

The reserve entrance is off the minor road from Cattistock to the A37 about ½ mile west of the A37.

Drive through the gateway onto the reserve and park at the bottom of the track. Map

Contact is Nigel Spring on 07981 776767, email

nigelspring@yahoo.co.uk

SUNDAY 20 JANUARY **CONSERVATION ACTION DAY**

Lankham Bottom Reserve

9.00 am – 4.00 pm

See January 6 for details

SUNDAY 27 JANUARY **CONSERVATION WORK DAY**

Lydlinch Common

See November 25 for details.

SATURDAY 9 FEBRUARY **CONSERVATION WORK DAY**

Langford Valley, for the Duke of Burgundy

Meet 10.00 am at the field gate beyond Langford Farm Cottages, near Lower Magiston, map

reference SY 639958, postcode DT2 9NP. Take the minor road northwards from Stratton to Sydling St. Nicholas along the Sydling Water. At the Bridleway sign, turn right into the Langford valley and to the farm.

Contact is Rachel Jones on 01929 406018 or email R.Jones@butterfly-conservation.org

SATURDAY 16 FEBRUARY **BUTTERFLY TRENDS IN** **WEST DORSET AND** **PORTLAND**

All are welcome to attend this presentation of the results of the West Dorset Transect surveys, Wider Countryside project, casual, website, and garden records in 2018 and the resulting trends in butterfly numbers. Please come along if you might also be interested in helping with any sort of butterfly recording in 2019 or joining in some of the butterfly counting walks.

After a presentation on the county and regional results for 2018, attendees are encouraged to contribute to the meeting by way of a short presentation on their experiences or with pictures. Please contact the organiser in advance if you wish to do so. The venue is Toller Porcorum Village Hall, start time 2.00 pm.

The map reference is SY 561980 and the postcode DT2 0DT.

From the A356, drive down into Toller Porcorum, over a small bridge then second right (School Lane) then left into Church Mead to Village Hall

From Bridport follow sign to Toller Porcorum, then down into village, over the old railway bridge, then first left (School Lane).

Contact / Organiser is Stephen Brown on 07748 730399

SUNDAY 17 FEBRUARY **CONSERVATION ACTION** **DAY**

Alners Gorse

9.00 am – 4.00 pm

We continue the woodland and scrub management work to improve our wildlife habitats.

There will be hot drinks and cake for refreshments. Do join us if you can between 9.00 am and 4.00 pm. Alners Gorse reserve entrance is on the road from Hazelbury Bryan to Kings Stag beside the Hazelbury Bryan village sign and 30 mph sign. Park on the wide straight road verge, well away from the dangerous bend, map reference ST 736100. For further information please contact Nigel Spring on 07981 776767, email

nigelspring@yahoo.co.uk

SATURDAY 23 FEBRUARY

BRANCH MEMBERS DAY AND AGM

Your opportunity to find out the latest news and developments within the Branch. The programme will consist of:

- * AGM and Chairman's summary of the year
- * The Cyril Diver Project - an insight into the background and achievements of the National Trust's successful citizen science initiative on Studland.' A presentation by David Brown, Property Ecologist for the National Trust on Purbeck, followed by an open discussion on how BC Dorset can recruit and motivate more volunteers.
- * Tea and raffle draw. Donations of cakes and raffle prizes gratefully received.

2.00 - 5.30pm at Puddletown Village Hall DT2 8RX, map reference SY 757942. There is plenty of parking in the village.

If you require any further details or can offer help on the day, please contact Adrian Neil on 01305 832937.

FRIDAY 22 FEBRUARY **CONSERVATION WORK DAY**

Langford Valley

See Feb 9 for details

SUNDAY 24 FEBRUARY **CONSERVATION WORK DAY**

Lydlinch Common

See November 25 for details.

FRIDAY 1 MARCH **BUTTERFLY TRENDS IN EAST DORSET**

This is a provisional date as at time of printing it has not been possible to finalise arrangements. See article about 'Butterfly Trends Meetings' in

the newsletter. Please see <https://www.dorsetbutterflies.com/events/> for updates

7.30 pm at St. Catherine's Church Hall on the corner of Leigh Road and Lewens Lane, Wimborne postcode BH21 1LE.

THURSDAY 7 MARCH **BUTTERFLY TRENDS IN SOUTH DORSET**

All are welcome to attend this presentation of the results of the south Dorset Transect surveys, Wider Countryside project, casual, website and garden records in 2018 and the resulting trends in butterfly numbers. Please come along if you might also be interested in helping

with any sort of butterfly recording in 2019 or joining in several of the butterfly counting walks.

After a presentation on the county and Purbeck results for 2018, attendees are encouraged to contribute to the meeting by way of a short presentation on their experiences or with pictures.

Please contact the organiser in advance if you wish to do so.

7.30 pm at the Methodist Hall, North Street, Wareham postcode BH20 4AG.

Contact / Organiser is Jon Bellamy on 01929 450182.

TUESDAY 12 MARCH **BUTTERFLIES OF THE WORLD**

Joint with DWT Poole Group
An illustrated talk by Mark Spencer. A journey through the continents looking at the wide range of butterflies to be found worldwide.

7.30 pm at Carter Community School, Blandford Close, Hamworthy BH15 4BQ
Contact is Ken Yeates on 07947 141539

SUNDAY 24 MARCH **CONSERVATION WORK DAY**

Lydlinch Common

See November 25 for details.

THURSDAY 28 MARCH **BUTTERFLY TRENDS IN NORTH DORSET**

All are welcome to attend this presentation of the results of the north Dorset Transect surveys, Wider Countryside project, casual, website and garden records in 2018 and the resulting trends in butterfly numbers. Please come along if you might also be interested in helping with butterfly recording in 2019 or signing up for any of the butterfly counting walks. After a presentation on the county and north Dorset results for 2018, attendees are encouraged to contribute to the meeting by way of a short presentation on their experiences or with pictures.

Please contact the organiser in advance if you wish to do so.

7.30 pm at East Stour Village Hall, map reference ST 802234 and the postcode SP8 5JY. This is next to the playing field on the left of the road from East Stour to Gillingham.

Contact / Organiser is Peter Cooper email devco2011@btinternet.com

SUNDAY 28 APRIL **POT PLANT PREP PARTY**

Lyn Pullen in Winfrith Newburgh sells plants in aid of Butterfly Conservation from her driveway

over the summer months, giving us a very useful source of income. She needs some help with getting the pot plants which have been sitting over the winter weeded, possibly re-potted and generally tidied up. A little bit of gardening knowledge would be helpful, but there will also be jobs like cleaning up labels and pots for re-use. Tea and cake will be supplied and you will be welcome to look round the garden, though there are no

guarantees as to the state it will be in!

Please let Lyn know if you are planning to help, in case the weather is bad and the event has to be re-scheduled.

Cobblers Cottage, Winfrith Newburgh. 2.00pm - 5.00pm.

Contact Lyn for details of how to find her if you need them. Email: cobblers@btinternet.com. Tel: 01305 853946

Visit www.dorsetbutterflies.com to see to see any events added after this list went to printing.

You can also see:

- Our regularly updated 'white holes' map, showing where no butterfly records have been reported in the current recording cycle.
- Butterfly sightings reported to the website since 2013 with graphical analyses.
- Atlas pages showing how all the species in Dorset are faring.
- Our amazing gallery of photos.



BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION

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Charity registered in England & Wales (254937) and in Scotland (SCO39268)

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