



Butterfly Conservation Dorset Branch 2016 AGM

Chairman's Report

- Welcome to everyone – a fantastic turnout, over 80 people attending represents about 10% of our membership. BC is still a relatively small conservation organisation but is extremely effective for its size.
- The date of the AGM has been discussed, having been held traditionally in the autumn but changed fairly recently to a February or March date. If we hold the AGM in the autumn, the accounts will be fresher (they are the accounts for the year ending the previous March) but some of the reports for the year may not be completed in time. If we hold the AGM in the late winter/early spring, the accounts are nearly a year out of date and the next butterfly season is about to start.
- Reports have been produced for this AGM on various activities of the branch – educational visits to reserves and other sites and moth trapping in schools, the activities of the sales and display stalls, the achievements of the website and social media, the work on the four BC reserves in Dorset and the Record Officer's report. All these are available for people to read and there is a sheet for signing up if you would like to be sent a zip file of these reports.
- Bill Shreeves has covered the ups and downs of the 2015 season in his report but there are some very happy memories of the year – wonderful Brown hairstreaks at Alners Gorse, 2 Marsh Fritillary larval webs at Alners, the first since 2012 . If Matthew Oates is right in his prediction, 2016 is going to be a bumper butterfly year, coming exactly 40 years since the amazing 1976 heat wave. Let's keep our fingers crossed!
- We are very grateful to all our volunteers for their dedication and hard work. Special thanks should go to Bridget de Whalley who is stepping down as coordinator of the display and sales stalls after many years incredible effort. She is turning out to be such a hard act to follow that sadly there is no one to take her place. We hope we can find a small number of people who will take the stall to events in their areas with one of them coordinating the stocking and the handovers. Particular mention also for Bob Steedman who is leaving the committee of the branch but who will continue to coordinate some of the moth activities for us. Also for Kathy and Richard Clarke who have run the BC Dorset sales operation since time immemorial. Richard has not been well and is due to have an operation for his cancer fairly soon – we have got a card for people to sign to say thank you to them both and to wish Richard well.
- Roger Smith has very generously offered to sell the books in his extensive library to raise funds for the branch – at the fundraising event in Poole in October (joint with the Poole group of the RSPB) , the sales of his books raised £156 for us and the proceeds of today's book stall will also go entirely into branch funds.

- Rex Bale has made a very kind offer to raise funds for the branch through a presentation of his audio-visual show in the cinema at Athelhampton House combined with a free visit to the gardens and house. This will take place in the afternoon of Sunday September 25th, with another presentation in the morning for regular volunteers in recognition of their dedication to the Dorset branch of BC.
- Let's look forward to another very busy and productive year!

Nigel Spring