

The Butterfly Observer

Cornwall Butterfly Conservation Newsletter No.52



**Butterfly
Conservation**

SUMMER Issue 2012

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1. Chairman's Message

Welcome to The Butterfly Observer 52. The first edition to be put together by our new Editor and Press Officer Andrew Carey. I'm sure that he'll bring some slightly different design aspects to the newsletter, and will be open to your comments and feedback, and also your contributions please.

This summer has seen a strong early flight season, followed by a very shaky three months which has included some of the wettest weather ever seen.

Although the weather was promising in early Spring, things have gone progressively downhill since, with the inclement weather keeping sightings at a reduced level to date. Surely we can be a little more optimistic now that July approaches? Fingers Crossed !!

Our Field Trips remain very popular, with a likely record attendance at Bunnys Hill being the highlight so far! Several Pearl Bordered Fritillaries were encountered to ensure a successful and enjoyable outing for all.

Our inaugural presence at the Royal Cornwall Show was a great success, Jo Poland and her wonderful team of assistants doing a magnificent job of raising the profile of Cornwall Butterfly Conservation with the general public and encouraging them to be more aware of our precious Butterflies and Moths. A great success Jo - Well Done.

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome the very significant number of new members who have joined us since the beginning of the year:

Stephen Smith	Mrs. Valerie Newman
Miss Wendy Anne Holland	Mrs. Yvonne Stait
David Walkden	Joanne & Christopher Boyce
Mrs Carolyn S.Merrett	Christopher Ricardo
Miss Sarah Twomlow	Miss Sarah Stevens
Mrs Eileen & Carlton Crouch	Sally Poyton & Mathew Whiting
Mrs Laura Fox	Barry & Mrs. Kristie Nicholas & Family
Peter & Mrs.Catriona Macdonald	Emily Ellis & Nigel Foster & Family
Miss Jenny Czernik	Joseph Baker
A.E.F. (Tony) & Heather Jackson	Miss Melissa Edwards
Miss Carolyn McGregor	Miss Isabel Blackler
Miss Emma Jane Higgins	Bernard Hocking
Mr. C.A. Mitchell	Miss Tracey Twomey
Mrs. Sylvia Oades	MS. Fiona Wall & Family
Mr. Simon J. Wilcock	Dr. Hazel Selley
MS. Jennifer & Peter Bousfield	Mrs. Danielle Moon
Daniel Joseph and Madeline	
John Chapple and Kate Jones	
Gordon & Elizabeth Roberts	

Richard Bance & Barry Ogilvie
J. R. & Mrs. E. M. Duncan
Mrs. Claire E. Dibble
Phil Reed and Julie
Gary and Jo.(Chicken) Barlow
Miss J. A. Parker

Mrs. Allison Livingstone
Dr. Richard Lancaster & family
Jonathan & Mrs Margaret Sobey
Tim Macfarlane
Paul Fenn
Genevieve K Pascoe

We hope to see you soon at one of our walks or events, and maybe even to welcome you as volunteers to help us with our important work. Please everyone, do all you can to encourage and recruit new members - we can do so much more for our butterflies with increased levels of funding and numbers of people.

Happy Butterflying!

Philip Hambly

2. Editorial

Here we go then, my first effort as the new editor of The Butterfly Observer. A brief introduction lets you know that I have been living in Cornwall since early 2009, having spent many happy times in the County on holiday over the previous 30 years, and I've been a member of the branch for 10 years at least!! Formerly resident in Sussex and Gloucestershire, I've been into butterflies since I moved from London to Sussex at the age of 4, and have seen all the British Species except the rarest migrants, but still



haven't managed to photograph Mountain Ringlet. My other interests include British orchids, photography and antiquarian/collectable books. The butterfly on my finger in the picture is indeed a large blue, taken on a site in the Cotswolds by a friend some years ago. Back to the newsletter, please feel free to let me know what you think about it, or send me articles and/or photographs for inclusion in future editions by email to:
apmcarey@aol.com

3. Obituary: Professor John S. Wacher (12th August, 1927 – 26th February, 2012) by Lee Slaughter

I unfortunately have to report the very sad news of the death on 26th February, 2012 of the former Cornwall Butterfly Conservation branch secretary and committee member Professor John S. Wacher. John was our secretary from 1998 until 2003 whilst I was Chairman & was an excellent secretary, committee member and co-author of our county butterfly atlas "A Cornwall Butterfly Atlas" which was published in 2003.

John Stewart Wacher was born on 12th August, 1927 in Canterbury, Kent. John was 'old school'; a retired professor of Roman Archaeology at Leicester University, an expert on Roman Britain, having been the author of a number of books on the subject. John was 84 years old when he died and had been interested in Butterflies since his childhood in the 1930's following encouragement from his schoolmaster who shared the passion for British butterflies! After a very full life, John, who served in the latter stages of World War 2, spent over 40 years studying Roman Archaeology, culminating in him becoming Professor of Roman Archaeology at Leicester University in 1985. After marrying Sarah in 1972 and having 2 children in the next few years, they enjoyed family holidays to Cornwall and loved our county so much that he moved with his family to Cornwall in 1987 following his retirement. He joined the Cornwall branch of Butterfly Conservation after our branch was formed in 1993; eventually becoming branch secretary several years later and amongst other things led several butterfly fieldtrips for members in west Cornwall.

He was very diligent and professional in everything he undertook which involved Cornwall branch of Butterfly Conservation. He was the driving force behind writing, collating and liaising with publishers in order to see through to publication "A Cornwall Butterfly Atlas" & thanks to him it was published, with him as

the main co-author in March 2003 after hundreds and hundreds of hours of unpaid voluntary work, by him, to achieve this over a three year period. Maggie Goodere eventually took over from him as branch secretary in 2004.

John was a gentleman and a very helpful and friendly colleague to me whilst I was Chairman of Cornwall Butterfly Conservation and to others on our committee at the time and if you needed expert advice you could always turn to John or phone him and he would always help no matter how complex your problem or query was.

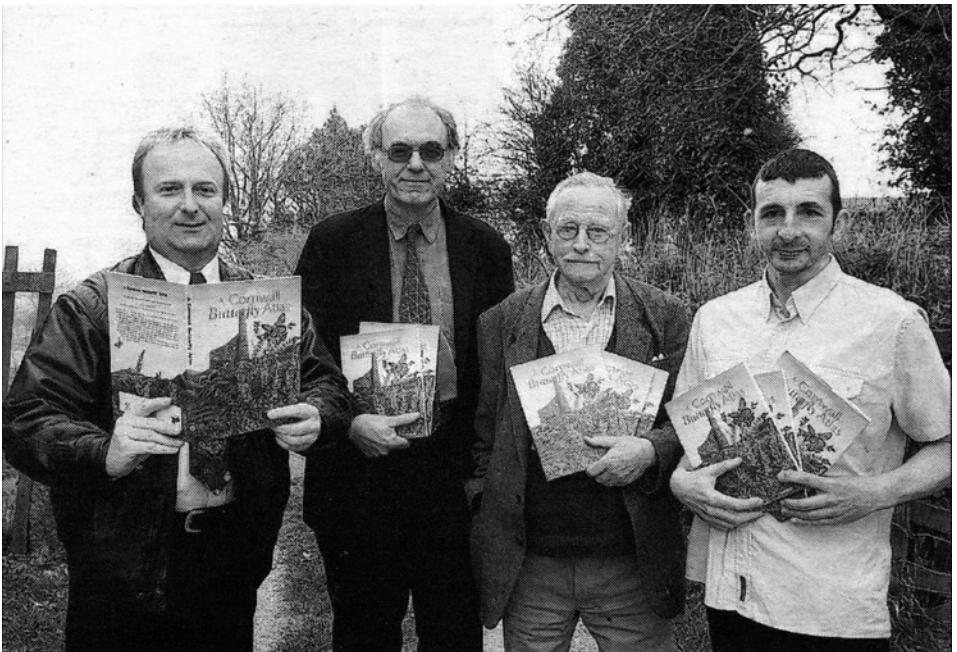
John Wacher, John Worth, Adrian Spalding as co-authors and myself as the then chairman of Cornwall Butterfly Conservation were photographed together at the official launch of our CBC Butterfly Atlas by Pisces Publications in March 2003 at Treliissick Gardens and the photograph appeared in several local papers within Cornwall. The book continued to sell very well over the next 9 years and continues to be the main reference point for anyone wishing to read about Cornwall's butterflies and their distribution and has received countless compliments from many people over the years.

John also made several individual sightings of the very rare Large Tortoiseshell butterfly near his home at Connor Downs over several years in the late 1990's through to about 2006, raising hopes that this species may have survived over several generations in west Cornwall, following a probable small immigration of this extinct species. He is also accredited with proving a Painted Lady butterfly can overwinter as an adult butterfly in Cornwall (1997/1998) following a mark & release experiment by him close to his home near Hayle. Finally, his patience was rewarded by a fortunate sighting of the largest of all our migrants, a Monarch, on 12th November, 2002 at Angarrack on a pub roof!

John's funeral took place at 1:00pm on Weds 7th March at Gwinear Church near Connor Downs and was attended by his family, friends, and several current and ex-committee members representing Cornwall Butterfly Conservation.

Our thoughts and prayers must go out to his widow, Sarah, their 2 children and their families, and grandchildren for their sad loss.

Thank you for all you did for Cornwall Butterfly Conservation John and for being a great supporter of Cornwall Butterfly Conservation and its butterflies.



Lee Slaughter with Adrian Spalding, Professor John Wachter and John Worth

4. The Royal Cornwall Show

This year, our Publicity Officer Jo Poland has expended a huge amount of time and energy on putting on a very strong Cornwall Butterfly Conservation presence at the Show in early June.

This is the first time that Cornwall Butterfly Conservation have had a presence at the show and we were really pleased that Cornwall Moth Group and the British Dragonfly Society joined us. We shared a 20 ft long and 6ft deep stand in the Cornwall Heritage Centre Tent.



The deely-boppers were donated by Cornwall based company Insect Lore, who very kindly donated 500 pairs.

Watch out for further pictures and information in a later edition of the Butterfly Observer.

5. Wild Spring Baffles Butterflies writes Andrew Carey

This year's wild spring weather has baffled our butterflies with some species emerging earlier than usual while others have been delayed by the deluge.

A warm March saw a number of spring specialists emerging very early, but these butterfly-friendly conditions were followed by the wettest April on record.

The wet weather continued well into May and delayed the typical emergence periods of many species. Cold, damp weather makes butterflies less active - reducing feeding and mating activity.

If the wet conditions persist they could affect the breeding success of some species later in the year.

Butterfly Conservation records emergence dates each spring. This year the Small Blue was one of the species to benefit from the mild winter and warm March.

The butterfly was seen on March 30th on the Isle of Wight - one of the earliest dates ever recorded for the species. The Small Blue typically emerges in mid-April in warmer years and early May when conditions are cooler.

The rapidly declining Wood White was seen on April 10th in Surrey - the species normally emerges in late April or May. The threatened Pearl-bordered Fritillary was also recorded earlier than usual, but most of Cornwall's were up to 4 weeks later than last year.

These early emergences soon slowed to a trickle as April became a record-breaking washout. The Common Blue and Brown Argus, which are seen in mid-April in warm years, were not reported until early May.

And the Marsh Fritillary and Adonis Blue, which both emerged in the final week of April in 2011, were not seen until the second week of May this year.

The threatened Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary and Glanville Fritillary also seem to have returned to more normal emergence dates after several very early years.

The wild weather experienced during the first quarter of 2012 could have a dramatic effect on butterflies as the year unfolds.



The worrying thing about this wet April, May and June is that the butterflies that did emerge will have poor breeding success due to the bad weather, and, therefore, we may see population crashes later in the year or next spring. Time will tell.

The Silver Studded Blue was found on the 15 May last year, probably it's earliest ever first sighting, but this year was not seen in Cornwall until the 4th of June.

Last year we had a hot spring and a poor summer. This year we're having a poor spring, so let's hope the summer is better.

6. Field Trip Reports

Cornwall Butterfly Conservation organises some 25-30 field trips each year, throughout the butterfly flight season, hoping to show branch members, their friends and families, and the wider public many of the various species of butterflies and moths that fly in the County.

During the course of the year, we receive reports from those that have gone ahead (sometimes despite the weather!!) And we welcome contributions from anybody who has attended, not just the walk leader(s). If you'd like to lead a walk on a patch of Cornwall not currently covered, get in touch, please.

Saturday 12th May - Bunny's Hill, nr. Cardinham, Bodmin Moor.

Bunny's Hill is an easily accessible site and is one of the best places in Cornwall to see the Pearl-Bordered Fritillary butterfly at close quarters. Much habitat conservation work is being carried out here to ensure the continued existence of both Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary and the rarer Pearl-Bordered Fritillary. Brimstones are usually seen together with Small Heath, Holly Blue, Orange Tip and possible Dingy Skipper. This year we had a record attendance for any Cornwall BC field trip, with more than 50 people attending. *This report was submitted by **Beth Roberts**, who was on her first ever butterfly field trip.*

"Saturday, 12th of May, I went on my first ever butterfly field trip.



So what, you might say. Well, I have had Parkinson's for eleven years, and now it is causing me to be more and more dependent on my husband, Gordon, and my electric three-wheeler friend, "Harley". Again, I hear you say, "So what?" Well, you should have seen where "Harley" took me! Seriously, let's get down to the important part of what was a very enjoyable, interesting and informative afternoon.

This particular warm, sunny afternoon, Gordon and I, together with Cornwall Butterfly Conservation and "Harley" were up on Bodmin Moor, just above Cardinham, looking for one particular and special butterfly. (Why do we persist in calling them butterflies when flutterby would be more appropriate?). This particular beauty was

the Pearl-Bordered Fritillary. The special site had been cleared of gorse by volunteers, thus providing a perfect environment with plenty of the necessary violets and bugle that they thrive on. It was hoped that we might see one or two, but cries of "There's one" and "There's another" were echoed excitedly many times, proving that all the hard work had been worth it.



Our companions were informed, interesting and also were kind enough to ensure that I didn't miss anything, bringing their finds to me, and taking care that "Harley" didn't suddenly toss me off like a bucking bronco.

One gentleman showed me a couple of hazel nuts that had been opened by a dormouse (so glad to hear they are still around) and a wood mouse. He then explained how to tell the difference. I then started looking around and was very excited when I found some for myself.

Such simple pleasure and good company; I look forward to when I am able to go again. Thank you everyone. You helped to make my day." *Thanks Beth, sorry I missed the trip.*

Saturday 19th May - Fellover Brake, St Breward

Phil Harris reports: The weather was improving as we arrived on site to count the pearl bordered fritillaries on this lovely area of bracken slopes next to the very high St Breward village. About 20 people in total turned out for the pleasant walk up to the breeding slopes, on previous trips we had seen up to 40 flying on a varied landscape with trees interspersed with violets and gorse, four of the people announced that they were on holiday from Yorkshire and two of them had never seen this butterfly before, so we were glad that by the end of the trip all were able to say they had seen the real thing flying in the wild.

Sadly just as we were warming up and seeing at least ten pearl bordered fritillaries flying around (and one pair mating) the sun decided to hide behind some weak cloud, all activity stopped immediately and very few could be found after this glimpse of what might have been a much bigger count.

Just to add to our trip we were then reminded that we were on the edge of the moor as we returned to the cars just as a large herd of cattle were being moved past our vehicles and we helped to block the gateway as a noisy herd of calves and mothers were moved up onto the high moor. We all stood back and hoped they didn't come too close as they passed.

7. Newquay College Event - Laura Ayles writes:

As part of a module for all first year students at Cornwall College in Newquay, students were asked to organise an event where they either raised money or awareness for a particular charity.



One group choose to raise money for Cornwall Butterfly Conservation. Having a few members on the group that have already volunteered for this organisation gave us determination to make the event a success. We were set the task to contact the organisation and organise the whole event from planning slots in the lecture theatre to contacting Cornwall Butterfly Conservation and making sure that each team member knew what was going on during the planning of the event. We also managed to contact a local primary school who did a butterfly painting competition for us.

Butterfly Conservation kindly provided us with first prize which the winning child was presented with.



On the day of the event we had a talk in the lecture theatre which was given by Keith Wilson who lives at and helps to run the Trelusback Farm conservation project. We then followed the talk

with a small cake sale and information stand in the student common room. We had plenty of interest from students and staff and managed to raise £40.10p from our cake sale. All members of the team worked really hard to put on the event and received good feedback, not only from students and staff, but from Cornwall Butterfly Conservation as well.

Pictured in the first picture are Laura Ayles with Portia Minshull and other talented students from Newquay College, and in the second, Keith gives his talk!

8. Cornwall needs a reserve! - Keith Wilson writes:

Cornwall Branch has not yet been able to purchase or lease a butterfly or moth reserve(s). Sadly this means that many endangered butterflies and moths are not receiving the kind of focused help we might like to offer due to our lack of control over many of the sites. Our present help is limited because we have little or even no influence with the landowners.

What can we do? We need some kind and generous person(s) to donate land, or money for the purchase of land, which is suitable for our endangered Lepidoptera. Land which may have little commercial value but is ideal for butterflies and moths.

We need donations of money for the on-going conservation work and maintenance of the site.

We need volunteers to help with any of the following:- Conservation work, advising landowners, fundraising, organising/leading field trips, recruitment of members, selling merchandise and help with catering at our social events and open days

We need suggestions regarding suitable sites and their availability.

We need more people with initiative, influence, contacts, drive, and enthusiasm to help make things happen.

We can get better at advising and influencing landowners and tenants. We could learn from the experiences of other branches in this area, and perhaps put in place a team of locally based, trained, volunteer advisors.

We need to develop and implement a strategy for raising the necessary funds.

We (perhaps I should say our butterflies and moths) need **your** help!

What can YOU do? We have seen many of our beautiful butterflies and moths disappear from our gardens and countryside. We can reverse this trend by being proactive which is far more positive than feeling sad, helpless and frustrated.

Even one person reading this could make a huge difference and this could be achieved by making a gift, a legacy, an offer of help or information, or even a request for advice about to how to manage a site best for butterflies and moths.

Or We could wait a few years and then dream about the days when we used to see lots of butterflies, moths, dragonflies and bees.

If you can help in any way, please contact Keith Wilson, the Branch Secretary at

Trelusback Farm, Penhalvean, Redruth, TR16 6TQ, or on 01209-860298 and/or 07972-376982 or

email: Trelusback_farm@hotmail.co.uk

9. Over Fifty Years of Observing Butterflies in West Cornwall

Paul Drayson has been a member of Butterfly Conservation for some 38 years, and a member of the Cornwall Branch since 1993. Although he now lives in Norfolk, it was during family holidays to Cornwall with his parents that he first developed an interest in butterflies.

Paul has very kindly sent us an article about his butterfly watching in West Cornwall, with extracts from his notes, and I make no excuses for publishing the whole thing. Thanks Paul.

It was in 1956 that my parents first took my brother and myself to Cornwall at the beginning of August for a two week holiday. We stayed at a B & B in the hamlet of Polgigga in West Penwith, and arrived by sleeper train overnight from London, where we lived at that time. As we had no transport of our own we did not venture very far and explored the local coves and cliffs on foot. So started a love affair for the county, and this family holiday was repeated over the following four years.

It was during these trips that I developed a lasting interest in butterflies. I can vividly remember exploring with my father the cliffs between Penberth and Land's End, net in hand. We discovered Silver Studded Blues at Porthgwarra and Nanjizal Coves. Up the valley by the stream behind Nanjizal, Dark Green, Small Pearl Bordered and Marsh Fritillaries were found, all past their best, but to a ten year old boy from south London seeming like exotic jewels.

There was the excitement of a flash of vivid colour when a Clouded Yellow zoomed past, and there were Graylings everywhere amongst the Gorse and Heather. On later visits we ventured further afield by bus to Helston, then walking to Porthleven through the Penrose Estate to the Loe Bar. I can remember Silver-washed Fritillaries swooping down from the woods and over the path round the Loe Pool.

Older and wiser I started to keep notes from 1974 and some of these that relate to numerous visits to Cornwall since, may be of some interest.

1975 Late June early July had a week staying near Penzance. My notes show there were good numbers of Small Pearl Bordered and Dark Green Fritillaries, Small Heaths. Meadow Browns, Gatekeepers, Common and Silver Studded Blues, Green Hairstreaks, Small Tortoiseshells, Small and Large Whites on the cliffs above Nanjizal Cove, and plenty of Graylings about the old mine dumps at Penberthy Crofts near Goldsithney.

1976 Early July, staying at Trevaylor Hotel near Penzance, up the valley of the Trevaylor Stream north of Gulval. This is where I usually stayed, becoming very friendly with the owners. In the gardens here I watched Silver-washed Fritillaries, Meadow Browns, Small Tortoiseshells, Common Blues, Red Admirals, Peacocks, and the usual Whites. At Nanjizal besides most of the previous years species there were Small Coppers, including a perfect *ab. obsolete* with no trace of the copper band on the hind wings, which settled on my arm, another very darkly suffused specimen, Red Admiral, Peacock and Small Skipper, but no sign of any Graylings.

1982 Middle to late May, again staying at Trevaylor. Found a strong colony of Marsh Fritillaries on the cliff above Portheras Cove near Morvah on the north coast, and another in a small damp flush between Porthgwarra and Nanjizal.

1986 Late June, once again staying at Trevaylor. On the first full day I found a few Marsh Fritillaries still flying at the Porthgwarra location, but all fairly worn. Later on a trip to the the Loe Pool very little of note and on the last day of the month no sign of any Marsh Fritillaries at Portheras. Two days later here, there were plenty of Small Pearl Bordered Fritillaries, a single Clouded Yellow and a Hummingbird Hawkmoth with two more of the latter flying in the gardens at Trengwainton.

1987 Visited in late May. No sign of any Marsh Fritillaries at Porthgwarra, just a single Small Pearl Bordered and a Speckled Wood, Small Heath, and Common Blues. On the 25th a Painted Lady was flying at the Loe Bar with some more Small Pearl Bordered Fritillaries looking very fresh. These were also on the wing at Portheras but no sign of any Marsh Fritillaries. Nanjizal had plenty of Small Pearl Bordered Fritillaries too, together with Small Coppers, Green-veined and Small Whites and a single Small Skipper.

Another visit in late September with many Red Admirals, and at Carbis Bay a single Clouded Yellow.

1988 Two visits this year both at the same times as the previous year. Again no sightings of Marsh Fritillaries at Ardensawah cliffs, Porthgwarra or Portheras, but Orange Tips can be added to the list for Portheras.

1989 A brief visit in mid May found Walls, Speckled Wood, Orange Tip, Small Heath and all three common Whites at Lamorna and a Holly Blue in Penzance where I was staying.

1991 In late June, I found a new colony of Silver Studded Blues on the cliffs near the Marsh Fritillary site at Porthgwarra and good numbers of Small Pearl Bordered Fritillaries just below Pendeen lighthouse.

1993 Mid to late June. On the drive down to Penzance I stopped to look for Heath Fritillaries near Lockett in the Tamar Valley. It was pure luck that I discovered them in a wood flying with Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Red Admiral, Speckled Wood, two Small Pearl Bordered Fritillaries and a single Green Hairstreak. I also found another colony of the Heaths in a small wood on the other side of the village flying with some Large Skippers. On the 23rd June I rediscovered the Marsh Fritillary colony at Porthgwarra counting about eight adults all showing signs of wear, resting in the marshy triangle of land that I had last seen them at over ten years ago. On the walk over the cliffs to Nanjizal I found a very blue female Common Blue and a small colony of Green Hairstreaks on a large Gorse bush. At Portheras there was no sign of any Marsh Fritillaries and the site had been badly damaged by the army who had been removing dangerous parts of a wreck from the cove below.

1996 Mid July and there were plenty of Graylings flying at Botallack and a Hummingbird Hawkmoth. At Porth Kidney near Lelant there were many female Dark Green Fritillaries flying in the dunes, and they were also on the wing out on Gurnards Head the following day.

1998 End of June, beginning of July, and many Hummingbird Hawkmoths about with a single Clouded Yellow resting on the sea front at Newlyn drawing an admiring crowd and another was spotted at Penberth the next day.

1999 Early June and out on Zennor Head were Small Heaths, Walls, Painted Ladies, Whites and one Red Admiral. Four days later on the 9th June I was pleased to count about ten Marsh Fritillaries at the Porthgwarra colony above Zawn Kellys, including two mating.

2000 This was a good year for Hummingbird Hawkmoths.

2001 Early June but no Marsh Fritillaries seen at the usual place and in September despite a good showing of Devil's-bit Scabious could find no larva webs in the triangular wet flush the colony uses.

2002 Late September and a good showings of Walls at Lamorna, Cape Cornwall, between Penberth and St Loy and at Porthgwarra, where there was also many Small Coppers laying their eggs and a Clouded Yellow flying.

2003 The Painted Lady year and in mid June they were every where in West Penwith together with numerous Hummingbird Hawkmoths. Later when I was down in early September it was also good for Clouded Yellows which were seen in some numbers near Penzance, Botallack, Lelant and near Gwennap Head during the ten days I was staying. Many were the whitish *var. Helice*. On the 16th, at Porthgwarra I spotted a very fresh Comma resting on an Escallonia bush, the first I have seen in this area.

2004 The usual mid June visit. No signs of any Marsh Fritillaries at Porthgwarra but many Silver Studded Blues, Green Hairstreaks, Small Heaths and Meadow Browns. At Pendeen below the lighthouse on the 27th Common Blue, Large Skipper, Small Heath, and Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary. The next day at Nanjulian on the north coast good numbers of both Common and Silver Studded Blues, one Green Hairstreak, Meadow Browns, Ringlets and Small Skippers.

2005 On the 15th February during an early trip there was a Small Tortoiseshell and a Red Admiral enjoying the sun in the gardens of Trelowarren out on the Lizard. Then on a visit in early June Speckled Woods were flying down the Nanquidno valley near to Land's End airport. On the 17th at the end of the Cot Valley near St Just, many Common Blues, fresh Small Pearl

Bordered Fritillaries, Small Heaths, Speckled Woods, Large Skippers, Small Coppers and hundreds of Six Spot Burnet moths. On another trip in mid-September the usual butterflies were observed including a fresh Grayling on the 19th below the Coast Guard lookout on Gwennap Head.

2006 On the 29th May down the Kenidjack valley near St Just, Peacocks, Orange Tips, Green Veined White, Speckled Wood, and Common Blues flying. On the 3rd June swarms of freshly emerged Small Pearl Bordered Fritillaries flying at Porthgwarra. Then in second week of October I stayed for ten days in Penzance while there was an influx of Clouded Yellows. Over at Porthgwarra near Hella Point on the 7th they were flying in off the sea including many pale *Helice* forms, including one beautiful lemon yellow variant. They were joined by many Painted Ladies and Red Admirals. On the 9th I walked over the cliffs to Nanjizal accompanied by Clouded Yellows all the way. They were also on the north coast with several being seen at Porth Navern at the end of the Cot Valley. By the 11th there were not so many but a Hummingbird Hawkmoth in the Morrisons supermarket at Penzance caused quite a stir.

2007 On the 10th June I saw my first Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary at Levant mine and on the 14th two more were seen while on a visit to Kynance Cove. On another trip in late September I watched several Small Coppers crawling about the grass and laying eggs on the red leaves of Sorrel growing on the cliffs between Hella Point and Gwennap Head. Also here on the 4th October several male Walls, Red Admirals, Peacocks and Small Tortoiseshells but no Painted Ladies or Clouded Yellows like last year. Two days later many more Red Admirals and Peacocks were feasting from the Ivy flowers down the footpath to Higher Bosistow farm above Nanjizal.

2008 The first visit to Cornwall was earlier than usual at the beginning of April, but butterflies were in good numbers with Peacocks, Red Admirals and a possible Comma on both north and south coasts at Botallack and Porthgwarra and a Holly Blue on the promenade at Penzance on the 14th. The following day several Walls were chasing each other out on the cliff between Penberth and the Logan Rock at Treen, with more seen later

at Porth Chapel. Another visit in August, on the 24th Besides the usual late summer butterflies a second generation Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary was spotted looking very fresh on the cliffs to the west of Porthgwarra. Two days later and a Grayling was still flying at the same spot. I was back on the 24th October at the Marsh Fritillary site but no signs of any larva webs.

2009 I was down in late March but no butterflies were seen. In mid June, on the 13th at Portheras there was a Green Hairstreak, the first I have seen here. The 19th saw me again on the green lane down to Higher Bosistow farm where hundreds of very worn Painted Ladies were found. Back again in the second week of July and a new location was explored at Rinsey, east of Mounts Bay. Again many Painted Ladies were on the wing together with Meadow Browns and Gatekeepers. On the 15th a Comma was seen in the village of Angarrack near Hayle and another was seen later on the site of Wheal Alfred enjoying the numerous Buddleia trees.

2010 At the beginning of the second week of June over on the cliffs by Wheal Cock, near Botallack, many Common Blues and Small Heaths, two Small Pearl Bordered Fritillaries, a Painted Lady and one Green Hairstreak, some Large Skippers and many Six Spot Burnets. In August there seemed to be a lot more Small Tortoiseshells about than I have seen in recent years.

2011 Watched a very blue Common Blue laying her eggs at Botallack on the 4th June and three days later a few Silver Studded Blues were in the same location. At Nanjizal the area shows a decided decline in butterflies since the fifties, sixties and early seventies although the landscape seems unaltered. However on the walk towards Land's End I did discover a new large colony of Silver Studded Blues out on the cliffs below Carn Boel. They were flying together with Common Blues and Small Heaths. There was a decided drop in the numbers of Small Pearl Bordered Fritillaries this year.

I wonder what this year, 2012, will bring and I can't wait for my first visit as I write this on a cool dull February day.

10. Transect Co-ordinator - Help Wanted

We are in need of some help please, in the following areas:

Transects: The following are no longer walked: Porthgwarra near Lands End, Cubert, Gaverigan near St. Dennis, Dodman Head and DeLank Quarry north west of Bodmin Moor. If you'd like to walk one, please get in touch with Jim.

OwnerSquares: A lot of Cornwall has now at least one recorder in our 10km grid squares, but there are a few cold spots, around St. Austell and East of Newquay in particular. If you live in one of these areas and could simply report the species you see in 2012 then please let Jim know:

Jim Barker: jimfrances@talktalk.net or tel: 01736 794134

11. Upcoming Events

Sunday 1st July 2012 at 11:00am Upton Towans, nr. Hayle

Saturday 7th July 2012 at 1:00pm Delabole Quarry, Delabole, Nr. Camelford

Saturday 14th July 2012 at 2:00pm Godolphin Woods, West of Helston

Sunday 15th July 2012 at 1:00pm Cabilla Wood, Glyn Valley, nr. Bodmin (CWT Reserve)

Saturday 4th August 2012 at 11:00am Trelusback Farm, Penhalvean, Redruth, TR16 6TQ

Sunday 12th August 2012 at 11:00am Kynance Cove, nr. The Lizard

Friday 17th August 2012 at 9:00pm Loe Bar Beach, Porthleven, Nr. Helston

Sunday 19th August 2012 at 10:30am Gwennap Head & Porthgwarra

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

Cornwall Butterfly Conservation Committee & Contacts

Chairman: Philip Hambly
Lethytp, Penadlake, Lanreath, Looe, PL13 2PG(01503) 220385
philip@lethytp.co.uk

Secretary, Membership Secretary & Branch Contact: Keith Wilson
Trelusback Farm, Penhalvean, Redruth, TR16 6TQ (01209) 860298
Trelusback_farm@hotmail.co.uk

Treasurer: Dave Spencer
153 Boslowick Road, Falmouth. TR11 4PY.....(01326) 314533
challenger3@btinternet.com

Newsletter Editor & Press Officer: Andrew Carey
The Barn Polglaze, Fowey PL23 1JZ01726 833040 (ex dir)
apmcarey@aol.com

Field Trip Organiser: Lee Slaughter
2 Trinity Street, St. Austell. PL25 5LY (01726) 817505 (ex dir)
leelisa1998@aol.com

Transect Co-ordinator: Jim Barker
'An Arth', Alexandra Road, St. Ives. TR26 1BX (01736) 794134
jimfrances@talktalk.net

Conservation Officer: Paddy Saunders
Pasadena, West Looe Hill, Looe PL13 2HJ(01503) 262567
paddysaunders@tiscali.co.uk

Publicity & Fundraising Officer: Jo Poland
1 Two Burrow Hill, Zelah, Truro. TR4 9QH (01872) 540371
publicity@cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk

Webmaster: Shaun Poland
1 Two Burrow Hill, Zelah, Truro. TR4 9QH (01872) 540371
shaun@blackfish.co.uk

Paul Browning
Penhale Jakes Farm, Ashton, Helston. TR13 9SD (01736) 763677

Phil Harris
59 Carnarthen Street, Camborne. TR14 8UP0775 4583101 (mobile)
phil.harris@duchy.ac.uk

Steve Hoskin
25 Coulthard Drive, Breage, Helston. TR13 9PF (01326) 563462
sdhoskin@hotmail.com

Carly Hoskin
25 Coulthard Drive, Breage, Helston. TR13 9PF (01326) 563462
cmhoskin@hotmail.co.uk

Adrian Spalding
Tremayne Farm Cottage, Praze-an-Beeble, Camborne. TR14 9PH (01209) 831517
a.spalding@spaldingassociates.co.uk

Contacts:

Recorder: Dick Goodere
3 Churchtown Road, Gwithian, Hayle, TR27 5BX (01736) 753077
gooderes@talktalk.net

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