

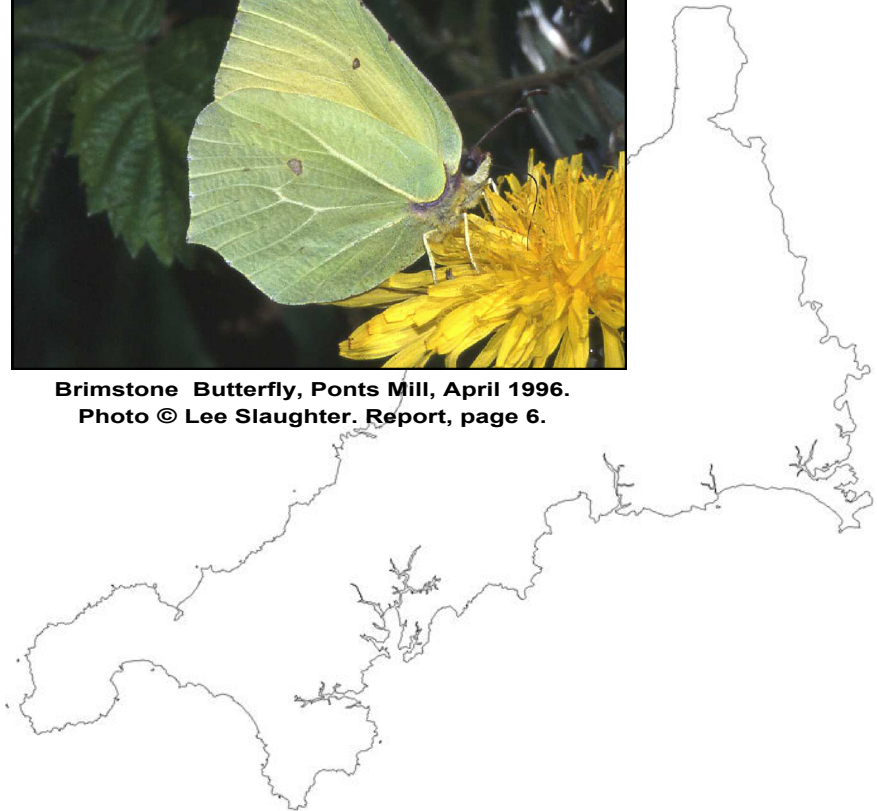
The Butterfly Observer

Cornwall Butterfly Conservation Newsletter No. 39



Brimstone Butterfly, Pons Mill, April 1996.

Photo © Lee Slaughter. Report, page 6.



**Butterfly
Conservation**

Winter 2008

Editorial

My apologies for mis-spelling Betsy Vulliamy's name in the last issue and also the mis-spelling of Tim and Sandy Dingle's house as Peholt instead of Penhalt. Some 'hawk-eyes' among you may also have noticed 'butterflies' instead of 'butterfly's' as well! The font in this issue has changed to 9 points to enable me to fit all the articles in. I hope it is readable to you all.

There is much concern these days amongst some conservationists in Cornwall that their voice is not being heard adequately by the appropriate authorities. This sentiment is



Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-moth nectaring on Bugle.
Marsland and Welcombe Nature Reserve, 24th April
2007. Photo © Steve Ogden by kind permission.

echoed by our retiring Transect Coordinator, Sally Foster in her article on page 7 and following - quite a comprehensive and personal report that I believe many will find cutting and to the point. Added at the end of the article is a detailed account of the transect areas in Cornwall.

Those of you interested in golf may find the article on page 14 of interest. Roger Lane continues his observations on migrants in his article on page 5 and 6. Whilst Lee Slaughter informs us of the early Brimstone sightings also on page 6.

National Moth Day (and Night) this year will be held on Saturday 7th June. Of interest in Cornwall will be any sightings of the Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-moth which once again, in recent years, has been sighted at Ninestones, Bodmin Moor and the Welcombe and Marsland Nature Reserve. The date for the record illustrated was unusually early but Steve Ogden and I put this down to an exceptionally warm April. It is one of two day-flying species targeted for this year's event.

Finally, there is an interesting report about four-legged Red Admirals on pages 16 and 17 along with Roger Lane's winter migrant report.

~ Ed.

Chairman's Report, Winter 2008 - a Year of Change.

Many thanks for the great turn out at the A.G.M. - far better than in some previous years. Maybe next year it would be a good idea to keep the meeting to a Saturday afternoon. As mentioned, it is much safer to drive around Cornwall in daylight etc. Many good ideas were suggested for the future. Our thanks go to Tim Dingle for a very interesting slide and talk about his area at the edge of the Millook valley near Bude. I suggest we have a planned field trip there this year, which is still to be arranged.

One enquiry at the A.G.M. was about the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary. It appears, from recent searches, that the butterfly is doing very well everywhere on the coast in Cornwall except along a large stretch of seemingly good maritime grassland from the Lizard Point to way past Mevagissey (about 20 miles), with no known colonies seen at all - that is a bit strange, since the butterfly is doing well everywhere else on the coast in Cornwall, so more searches will be carried out in 2008.

It has been a year of change in fortunes for our butterflies. 2007 will not go down in our books as worth a celebration for good weather - both summer or winter and, as we look out today on fields of deep, cold water, let us hope it changes soon. We are not forgetting the fact that the middle of England had it much worse than us for the second time this year. We already know that the Marsh Fritillary has suffered dramatic losses after counting their

webs in the autumn. The general consensus of opinion was that June and July 2007 were 8 weeks of cold, wet weather and all the spring breeding butterflies that had just laid minute eggs and had hatched into pin-head sized caterpillars, would have probably either drowned, or had simply died of lack of warmth and opportunity to feed and digest their food. We can only hope for a better 2008. Wouldn't it be great to get another one of those halcyon years of perfect weather to get us back on track?

On a more positive note, work parties have been beavering away on at least 5 sites this winter, managing vegetation for our crucial rare species. The most recent was last week at Luckett where 16 people, one of whom had brought her baby along, were working in between some very heavy rain showers. The site is now in pristine condition - so well done all concerned. Again, it was a very enjoyable day, like last year and, no doubt, without this generous band of dedicated people, the butterfly would have probably disappeared long ago.

Moving on to our other team of workers, the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) have a programme of management days on Bodmin Moor as part of the Blisland Commons Scheme and have already been very active at De Lank quarry and Fellover Brake. Our thanks in this area also goes to Sally Foster (our outgoing Transect Coordinator) for her untiring work in organising things at De Lank and elsewhere. Tim Dingle organised a day at Bunny's Hill with the North Cornwall District Council, but unfortunately hit poor weather. This week, we will also be at the new site behind the St. Breward Post Office owned by Tim Hutton. Paul Browning is organising a day for Grizzled Skippers and my Duchy College students have been able to join in on these work parties, which has meant another 10 people per day working with BTCV towards their qualification in vegetation management. At last we are beginning to try to make that big difference of creating more habitat per year than is lost to natural succession. There will indeed be more work parties in the future months.

This is the sort of effort we have built up over the last couple of years to keep on top of management in Cornwall, not bad considering that it was only a few years ago that nothing ever seemed to be happening. We are on the positive side of creating habitat fit for living, breeding butterflies and learning all the skills needed, at a cost to no one but ourselves. We supply our own food, petrol, tools and expertise and most of all enthusiasm and energy, so feel proud to be involved and helping.

Phil Harris – February 2008.

Please note deadlines for contributions are as follows:

- ♦ **Winter issue: 1st. February**
- ♦ **Spring issue: 1st. May**
- ♦ **Autumn issue: 1st. September**

Cornwall Butterfly Conservation Annual General Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting of the above Branch was held at Cornwall Wildlife Trust's Headquarters, Allet on Saturday 19th January 2008.

1. Apologies were received from Barry Ofield, Phil Boggis, Sally Foster, Laurie Oakes, Jess Tatton-Brown, Steve Bassett and Roger Lane.

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 2006 were accepted as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

3. The accounts for the financial year 2006-2007 were presented and adopted. The Treasurer reported that the balance on 1st April 2007 was £3,683.56. £403.18 was the amount of income in excess of expenditure in the last financial year. The present balance is £2936.76.

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4. Steve Bassett, Phil Boggis, Paul Browning, Maggie Goodere, Phil Harris, Steve Hoskin, Lee Slaughter and Adrian Spalding submitted for re-election to the Committee. Barry Ofield, Sally Foster, Roger Lane and John Worth have retired from the Committee although Roger and John will remain as Migration Officer and County Recorder respectively. The block election of the existing Committee members was proposed and carried unanimously. Two new Committee members, Jess-Tatton Brown and Carly Hoskin were also proposed, seconded and elected to the Committee. Jim Barker is the new Transect Coordinator but at present does not want a place on the Committee.

5. There being no other proposals, the following were confirmed by the meeting as:

Chairman	Phil Harris
Treasurer	Paul Browning
Secretary	Maggie Goodere

6. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and commented on the good attendance despite some unavoidable absences from Committee members. It was particularly pleasing to see some new faces. He expressed deep appreciation for the dedication of the retiring Committee members all of whom have given so much of their time and skills to Butterfly Conservation and will continue to do so even though they are no longer members of the Committee. We were reminded to be more diligent about sending records to John Worth who is still our Recorder. The Chair also gave a special thanks to Phil Boggis who has continued to publish our newsletter to a very high standard. There was a plea to continue sending him information and articles. Jayne Herbert was also thanked for her work as Web mistress. Phil Harris then went on to review the butterfly year briefly. The wet, cold summer weather had a profound effect on butterfly numbers in 2007 even though Cornwall suffered less flooding than other parts of the country. We already know from larval web counts that the Marsh Fritillary has suffered dramatic losses and this could be true of other spring breeding butterflies whose larva will have hatched and possibly drowned or died of cold, - especially hard to take after such a warm and promising spring! We will know how badly butterflies were affected once the new season starts. Phil expressed all our hopes for one of those perfect years in 2008 to get us back on track.

On a more positive note, Phil commended the now regular working parties carrying out conservation work to enhance the breeding grounds of our most threatened species, especially the Fritillaries. In addition to Butterfly Conservation members, other organisations are increasingly getting involved practically with scrub clearance and targeted management of vegetation. The contribution of BTCV has been especially important. Further releases of Heath Fritillary butterflies and caterpillars bred by Barry Ofield took place at Deer Park and also in the Tamar Valley and we are hoping that at least some of them survived the dreadful weather.

Phil also referred to the revised list of priority species, which should improve protection for an increased number of butterflies and moths although there do not seem to be Action Plans for the new additions. There was some confusion about the inclusion of Research Species on the list although Adrian Spalding pointed out that planners must take account of those listed even though they do not have full status as BAP species. It was pointed out that sometimes mitigation by developers could be almost as bad as wholesale destruction.

Phil informed us that the Cornwall Butterfly Atlas continues to be sold and remains a most valuable source of information. It was suggested that there maybe a need to update the Atlas every few years but the practicality of this needs to be discussed further. Phil felt that we should not be over-cautious about spending our reserves. We have already contributed to an important project to save the High Brown Fritillary in the North of England

now we need to consider the needs of our own branch. Any suggestions would be welcome and we would also welcome a Committee member with a particular interest in fund raising.

7. Points raised under AOB included the following:
 - ♦ Tim Dingle suggested the need for forward planning involving decisions on what CBC wished to achieve in 5 years time.
 - ♦ Adrian Spalding updated the meeting on the North Atlantic Coast Project which unfortunately was unsuccessful in securing Lottery funding for its continuation although funding has been obtained elsewhere for a two year appointment to keep the project going. The Large Blue was reported to be doing well.
 - ♦ Sally Foster had asked for publicity for next weekend's conservation day at St. Breward and advised looking at CBC's website for information about future events.
8. A short break for refreshments was taken during which time the raffle was drawn and there was a sale of plants and wildflower seeds.
9. The Chairman then introduced Tim Dingle who gave a most interesting illustrated talk on Gardening and Wildlife.

Maggie Goodere (Secretary) February 2008.

Notes on would-be Red Admiral Emigrants, Trenarren, 22nd Sept. 2007.

Having seen relatively few Red Admirals (20+) away from the coast, due to lack of nectar e.g. buddleia, and knowing much of the coastal cliff-ivy had 'gone over', I began to wonder where, if anywhere, the Red Admirals were at this peak season for emigrants. The only high number I had seen to date this autumn, were 50+ on coastal Ivy inland of the Gribben headland, at Par, on 8th September 2007, thus it was that I considered migratory headlands, and being closer to the Trenarren headland, which is often more prolific especially for Red Admirals, I drove in that direction.

As soon as I passed through the hamlet of Lobb's Shop (SX0249, 1 kilometre square), the car started putting up Red Admirals from the hedgerows as we passed. They had been sheltering, from what was still a SSW wind, and nectaring on 'hedge' Ivy, growing over and from the stone wall base (almost the last Ivy sites to yield nectar, due to wind-chill and poor soils, although sunlight is abundant). I estimated a minimum of 30+ just missing the car, but no other species. Thus, I had encountered 50+ in total, before reaching Trenarren village and headland!

At Trenarren I drove down the steep hill toward the headland and into the stiff SSW wind. The roadway, at least, was virtually devoid of Red Admirals, which is normal except in northerly biased winds. I turned and retreated ½ kilometre to the north of the grid square, which is usually more prolific anyway, and holds the breeding and wintering grounds (gardens).

Parking at the village sign at the hilltop, I found one garden (a sheltered one, I have no permission to enter, currently), open entirely to the SSW wind, with no Red Admirals visible; however, I was able to see over the hedge, where the first Magnolia was already yielding nectar - judging by the poor view of a few Red Admirals. I then took a short walk down a private path, almost always sheltered from any wind direction, and sure enough put up c.20 Red Admirals, all entirely pristine, which were basking in the sun either on the ground or on nettles.

Thinking that 70+ was a good day's 'haul' for this poor Red Admiral season, I was about to return home, when I backed-up a few yards (to count Speckled Woods in a sunlit patch). Suddenly, a Comma swooped by me and, looking up into the tree, I was pleased to

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see a pristine Holly Blue, obviously of the 3rd generation (my first and only so far). Using my binoculars on the Blue, I began to realise there were many butterflies gliding about between trees or nectaring on 'tree' Ivy. I was in fact to the leeward (north) of a copse which forms the edge of a large woodland which is the CWT's Ropehaven Reserve. Just about every tree had Ivy which is the latest nectar producing site for Ivy due to shade and wind-chill around the trunks. ALL the butterflies seen (except above) were Red Admirals with at least 95% being in pristine condition! As usual they had found the nectar and the leeward site, and yet 'we' (man) almost didn't see them! As it was, I estimated another 80+ from just standing by the car! Hence the morning's total was at least 150+, but 100+ of these had been in 1/50th of the Trenarren 1 kilometre square!

My explanation, in a VERY poor year for the species, is that following a week's poor weather, which however started with sunny but cold Monday and Tuesday mornings, probably 'pushed south' good numbers of Red Admirals. These had built up during the week, feeding-up on 'hedge' and 'tree' Ivy, they now found their southward emigration held up by the strong SSW winds (otherwise in temperatures of c.20 degrees Celsius, they would surely have left). Having covered so little of the 1 kilometre square, albeit the 'choice' site under the conditions, one wonders just how many there may have been in the vast remainder of the semi-wooded kilometre square! One suspects in the order of 250+ at least!

Unfortunately, lack of space dictates the omission of many interesting observations on behaviour, sheltering (in the 'cup' of Sycamore leaves), air-foil producing still airs at the TOP of Trenarren, despite SSW winds, the use of 'tree' Ivy still, and the beginning of Magnolia usage - great 'unknowns' of migratory headland!

Roger Lane (Migration Officer), 25 Warwick Drive, Buckler Village, ST. AUSTELL, PL25 3JJ

Fabulous February 9th at Ponto Mill.

Saturday morning dawned frosty and clear and the sun shone after the early morning mist had cleared. After finishing work at midday I hastily drove to Ponto Mill and arrived



The Comma, another familiar sight at Ponto Mill, April 1996. Photo © L. Slaughter.

to be greeted by a Peacock butterfly. I arrived at Carmear's incline at 12.30pm and saw Roger Lane who had seen his first Brimstone just 5 minutes earlier and hence beating his all time earliest date record for this species. 10 minutes later a beautiful yellow male Brimstone duly appeared and took a slow flight out of some Ivy growing up a nearby tree and delighted us with its late winter flight. It was seen for about 10 further minutes before purposely returning to the Ivy growing up the tree. It disappeared at 12.49pm and could not be located again. We both then arrived at a small field a few hundred yards away to see our first Comma butterfly of the year, a female, which seemed in remarkably

fresh condition! The adjoining pet cemetery then produced a huge Red Admiral flying around a Hebe bush that was in full bloom! What an excellent start to the butterfly season for us on a brilliantly sunny and warm day! The temperature was 12.5 degrees centigrade by the time the male Brimstone was seen but must have easily exceeded this in the sunshine. The day continued, in our part of Cornwall, with a clear blue sky until dusk but I

believe not all parts of the county were so lucky as many western and coastal areas were shrouded in mist and fog! Let's hope that this is a sign of an early butterfly season to come and hope that numbers of species will increase as a result of fine early-season weather.

~ Lee Slaughter - February 2008.



Final Newsletter from Sally Foster - November 2007.

Dear All,

I would like to welcome Jim Barker as your new transect coordinator for Cornwall. Jim has kindly taken over from me and I hope he finds the role as enjoyable and interesting as I have. I will continue to be part of the Gwithian Green recording team and enter data into the Transect Walker database. I'm also spending time carrying out practical conservation work locally and on Bodmin Moor.

Following this article is a summary of the different transects in Cornwall which I hope you find interesting plus a few words from the Green Gym coordinator. New transects for next year are also mentioned. This summary highlights the huge amount of work carried out by committed staff and volunteers, and I hope we can keep it up and build upon this work.

Thank you all very much for all the conscientious recording over the years – it really is very much appreciated by those that run the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme. There is no scheme in existence that so thoroughly monitors the changes in invertebrate numbers and without this knowledge it would be much more difficult to lobby for the protection of our declining species and their habitat. In 2001 the European Union set an ambitious target to halt biodiversity loss across Member States by 2010, which was backed up by agreement under international law in 2002. If the UK is to achieve the biodiversity targets by 2010, biodiversity has to be monitored and measured! Also, as you all know, butterflies make superb flagship species and several species are the main focus for conservation management on several sites in Cornwall.

I will be doing a butterfly workshop next year at Gwithian on June 19th. This is organised by Betty Levene (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers - BTCV) and will be advertised in their training programme. If there is demand from BC members, I'm happy to run a small informal workshop for new transect walkers before the beginning of the monitoring season – April 1st.

If anyone reading this newsletter, who lives near one of the transects listed on pages 10 -13, would be interested in helping out, please contact the site manager and Jim. New volunteers would very much be appreciated and training can be organised – previous experience isn't required. Some of the Cornish transects must be among the most beautiful in the country.

It has been particularly rewarding to be a small part of the continuing good relationship with the National Trust. Phil Harris, Steve Hoskin, Maggie Goodere and Paul Browning have had some excellent trips out with NT staff - especially in Penwith. NT land is invaluable to a wide range of important butterfly species and the NT's sensitive management of the many varied habitats is playing an extremely important role in conserving Cornwall's butterflies.

All the best,
Sally Foster

I'm sorry to finish on a depressing note but I have to take this opportunity to say the following, which is purely my opinion, and ultimately destined for statutory organisations and policy makers who will get a copy of this newsletter.

~ Sally Foster.

Editor's note:

At this juncture Sally mentions her concerns about the county's statutory bodies which are charged with protecting wildlife, she believes they are concentrating on local authority re-structuring, and other considerations, at the cost of conservation. She says: 'As a conservationist, I am concerned real conservation work, such as that carried out by North Cornwall District Council, will cease. Unfortunately, I see the County Council and other statutory bodies (which are charged to protect wildlife) place an increasing emphasis on access, tourism and enjoyment of people as opposed to enhancing and protecting our intrinsic Cornish landscape. The huge investment in such developments is to the detriment of wildlife and habitat, and it is especially disappointing when it occurs on our few remaining un-spoilt and wild areas. If we don't look after our natural environment, it won't look after us!'

Sally continues:

The Cornwall Butterfly Conservation committee is working hard to protect our rapidly declining butterfly and moth species and their habitats. Behind the scenes, Maggie Goodere and Phil Boggis have written to various organisations to raise awareness to the destruction of important species and habitat. If any one is concerned about a particular incident of destruction (or proposed) of a butterfly or moth species or habitat please contact Cornwall Butterfly Conservation.

Many farmers who have Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species on their land will not be entitled to apply for Higher Level Stewardship Schemes (HLS) if they are not in the 'right' area. For example, farmers at Stithians with the Marsh Fritillary will not be entitled to apply for a scheme that purports to encourage and support farmers who wish to look after wildlife. The Marsh Fritillary, in addition to being designated a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species, is also the only British butterfly protected by EU legislation. The 'fiasco' within Natural England continues and what is really annoying is that those responsible, move on and often to higher office, with impunity. Natural England tells us they are looking at the bigger picture and looking after the whole landscape. I'm sceptical! I'm sure it must be frustrating for those dedicated and hardworking staff that are left to deal with poor decisions but that doesn't mean we do not try to change things. I believe it is very important to look at the whole landscape but sometimes you have to start by looking after the species and habitat and slowly work outwards. The Marsh Fritillary is a very important species as it is often associated with moorlands and the upper reaches of our rivers. **Keeping these populations healthy is in fact looking after landscapes, including river systems, and whole ecosystems.** Stithians is as important as other Marsh Fritillary hotspots where farmers can apply for Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) – but in this case not entitled to, this seems unfair to me, surely any farmer who is farming to look after important habitat or species should be able to apply for Higher Level Stewardship. As I write this newsletter, I look out on the surrounding landscape and wish that government policy had cared a little more for landscape in the last fifty years. I have witnessed the lovely little Gwithian stream being choked with macro vegetation and filled with silt rich in nitrates and phosphates, which have run off from land with no buffer strips. I see the lovely hedges torn out. Because of the silt, the stream has needlessly been dredged and the wonderful snipe bog almost damaged beyond repair – it is just recovering only due to a few people having a very hard time to prevent further dredging. I see the lovely large pond and marsh drained where we used to have wonderful evening

flights of Teal, Widgeon, Mallard and more. This area is now full of rubbish and ruderal plants. We no longer hear the warblers singing in the reed beds and further downstream where the stream meandered lazily through a lovely marshy area into the Red River we no longer have the rare water beetle, *Agabus brunneus* (now only found in two areas of the country). The stream has been canalised and migratory fish are prevented from travelling upstream and close by we no longer see the lizards, hare and Silver-studded Blue butterflies. In addition, lovely reed beds in the Red River valley have been drained, but who cares - we might soon be able to go to a proposed 'paintballing' or similar amenity on the nearby Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) (Hayle dune system). Let's face it; all the thousands of people that come into the county will have to do something when we have completely trashed our landscape. Maybe the National Trust in Penwith could also 'give up' their lovely coastline to paintballing too and the whole of west Cornwall could be the 'paintballing capital' of Europe. **I very much hope Natural England and the planners will stop any proposed developments that damage the dune system and any other important habitats.**

*(Sally says the paintballing idea has only been a suggestion - nothing in concrete as yet.
~ Ed.)*

Priority BAP species still do not get legal protection and therefore is all the money and energy spent on this process a waste? The CBC committee is very concerned about the lack of protection and will continue to raise awareness to protect our moths and butterflies. I find it difficult to understand how our Government can set 'biodiversity targets' and then in 'knee-jerk' fashion it creates 'biofuel' targets that completely undermine biodiversity in the UK and worldwide and puts more CO₂ into the atmosphere in the process. It seems 'Carbon Credits' is another disaster area that is not working, especially as there is a huge bottleneck in the UN's Clean Development Mechanism. I note that no big money goes into providing good cheap public transport. **If we set about reversing the decline in biodiversity many other government targets would be reached naturally and automatically**, such as alleviating flooding, reducing CO₂ emissions etc. However, this appears to be outside the policy maker's 'radar'.

There are several transects on sites under stewardship agreements and it is of concern that when they expire the new Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) scheme will not provide the much needed help. In the future, the work of the volunteer will become even more important in monitoring and carrying out conservation management. I know the work of the volunteer is very much appreciated by Butterfly Conservation but I feel some statutory bodies are underestimating their contribution towards saving species and habitat. Without the support of the huge volunteer force, organisations may find it difficult to meet their organisation's statutory duty to halt the decline in biodiversity. The volunteers are doing their bit but responsibility to halt the decline does not rest solely on their shoulders – the ultimate responsibility is with the statutory organisations and society. I have been disappointed to see that **conservationists are increasingly side-lined in the decision making process** and find it depressing that protecting our wildlife is often overridden by 'empire building', economics and politics and often requires conservationists to do 'battle' in order to protect it.

I have worked in nature conservation for about 30 years mainly as a volunteer but latterly also carried out professional work, and I see attitudes from Government no better than when I was reading 'Silent Spring' as a 6th former in the Sixties. My message to the statutory organisations is that local communities and the voluntary sector must be kept on board if collectively we are going to safeguard our wildlife and landscape. I have seen too many really good initiatives from local people and conservationists ruined by various statutory bodies not supporting those that want to do something positive.

~ Sally Foster

A Summary of the Different Transects in Cornwall.

Bodmin Beacon Local Nature Reserve.

'Most people have seen the monument standing proud above Bodmin, but how many realise what lies at its feet? Bodmin Beacon is well known amongst the local community but remains a secret to the passing tourist.' (taken from the North Cornwall District Council website).

Bodmin Beacon Local Nature Reserve is featured on the NCDC website and it is well worthwhile reading about but better still - go and see it. David Attwell and his assistant Coralie Barrow do an excellent job managing this site and they are an inspiration to all around them. It is amazing how they have managed to capture a real feeling of wildness in the middle of a town. The first official butterfly transect was undertaken on the Beacon in the summer of 1999. The excellent data has been collected by one very knowledgeable volunteer John Worthington and David is very grateful for all his good work. He is looking for volunteers to help John out, so any keen person please contact David.



An aerial view of Bodmin Beacon. The main part of the local nature reserve is to the left. Photo © NCDC by kind permission.

Bunny's Hill and Fellover Brake – Bodmin Moor.

Numbers of Pearl-bordered Fritillaries are down on this site. Phil Harris has been finding it difficult to get to this transect from Camborne. It is a single species transect for the Pearl-bordered Fritillary. Many a time Phil has set off in full sunshine from Camborne to find it raining when he gets to Bodmin. He has dedicated much time to monitoring the Pearl-bordered Fritillary at this site and also at Fellover Brake. Anyone who knows Phil will know how hard he has worked over the years trying to save our butterflies, so if there is anyone living close to this site and willing to help out during the short flight period, he would be most appreciative. Monitoring at this site may have to be altered and timed counts instead of transects are being considered.

Bodmin Moor (General).

There has been an amazing amount of good management work carried out on Bodmin Moor to help the Pearl-bordered and Marsh Fritillaries. This is due to a British Trust for Conservation Volunteers project funded by Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the SITA Trust. It is a long story but credit for this happening must go to the Cornwall Fritillaries Action Group, CBC, and some great landowners/farmers and residents. Dave Hazlehurst (Natural England), in particular, has worked very hard with local landowners to get some excellent schemes off the ground. The work Dave has done to help the Pearl-bordered Fritillary meta-population, which is centred on De Lank Quarry, has been a real success story. Some transects and timed counts have been set up to monitor the conservation work, but they are still in the early stages and as yet the data cannot be used in the national database. Local organic farmer, Dominic Fairman, is carrying out timed-counts on his population of Pearl-bordered fritillaries at De Lank. More local expertise with the monitoring, such as Dominic's monitoring, is needed if these transects can continue and the data be of a standard that can be used nationally. The best way forward is for the farmer to monitor the species on his own land, as ultimately, as long as he is fully aware of the ecological requirements of the butterfly, he is the best-placed person to judge how to achieve the sward height etc. Links are also being developed with local schools to involve students with the monitoring and participate in conservation work. NB. There are areas and species that are suited to timed counts rather than transects. However, for the timed counts data to be useful it is important to carry out timed counts in conjunction with a transect in order that you can gauge if you are close to the peak of the flight period. At present, there is a fair amount of estimation as to when the peak period is, therefore, although the information is helpful to the land managers and gives us a rough idea that we are not 'killing off' our rare species when we clear gorse etc, we do need to monitor our sites more thoroughly. Unfortunately, this all takes time and so at present we do the best that time allows.

Butterfly Lane, near St Ives.

This transect is an excellent example of a quiet Cornish lane. It gives a good idea of what is happening in the wider countryside as opposed to nature reserves.

Update from Jim Barker.

A bad year for butterflies, those that haven't been blown away have drowned and count days have been difficult to find as well. Normally our transect is alive with Gatekeepers at this time of year but only a few stragglers are around. One Painted Lady this year only.

Cotehele National Trust.

James Robbins has mapped out and planned a transect this year and is hoping it is started next year.

Deer Park Wood and Greenscoombe Ridge (Near Luccett).

These two sites are all-species sites but their star attraction is the Heath Fritillary. Alec Mackonochie and Richard Vulliamy have supplied invaluable data over the years. In fact, Deer Park Wood is the oldest transect in Cornwall. It was established in 1980 and Greenscoombe in 1985. Reports based on transect data, which highlighted the rapid decline of the Heath Fritillary, played a major role in persuading the 'powers that be' that action was needed to save Cornwall's remaining Heath Fritillary sites from extinction. The much-needed management appears to be working. Alec and Richard have devoted many years to monitoring these sites but they would appreciate some help. It is a beautiful area; so if anyone wishes to be involved, please contact them or Jim.

Gwithian Green (Common) Local Nature Reserve.

This transect was started in 1997 and data is collected by a small team resident continued over.....

in Gwithian. The very sad news is that one of our very keen recorders died in the summer. Linda Fuller was a very active member of the community and always fought to save our heritage whether it was protecting the 'high dunes' or saving the village chapel from developers. She will be missed by many people.

We have managed to walk the transect most weeks but butterfly numbers are down especially the Meadow Browns. Small Heaths have not been seen this year and Walls are also very low. One of our transect walkers is planning the conservation management for this year so he will be looking at the all-site indexes with interest. Hopefully, with his input, conservation management of the Green will be kept on course. The very small band of conservationists on the LNR management committee have had a rocky ride and all the transect walkers look enviously at North Cornwall District Council's management of their LNR. Fortunately, at long last, things seem to be settling down after the Green was designated a LNR. Gwithian Green is under a stewardship scheme that provides the much needed funding to manage it.

Gwithian Sandpit (Hanson site) now known as St. Gothians Local Nature Reserve.

This site became a Local Nature Reserve in 2005 after a long campaign by the local residents to save the 'high dunes', which now form a very important part of the LNR. The star of the campaign was the Silver-studded Blue butterfly, which was under threat. The residents and many others will always be indebted to John Wachter (and the CBC committee) and John Davies (BC head office) for their strong support and also the Cornwall Birdwatching and Preservation Society. A lesson for anyone trying to save an important habitat is that the bottom line would be that you never believe anyone in authority when they say '*you can't do anything about this*' which, in our case, was the proposed destruction of our beautiful sand dunes. Once the residents saved the 'high dunes', Cornwall County Council took over and continued negotiations with the landowners and raised funding to purchase the whole area including the 'high dunes' from the landowners and designated the area a Local Nature Reserve.

The name Gwithian is derived from Gothian. Legend has it that Gothian, a local saint, was a member of a group of missionaries from Ireland. They were led by Fingar and landed in Hayle in the 6th Century. On the second day, when going inland along the Roseworthy Valley, they were attacked by the soldiers of Teudar, the local chieftan, and many of them were martyred. It is now a little safer in the Red River Valley!

The old butterfly transect on the 'high dunes' has proved to be a little too long and too much for the small dedicated team in Gwithian but Green Gym help out when the Silver-studded Blues are flying which provides important data on how the populations are doing. In addition, part of the transect disappeared but despite these problems, the site would justify the establishment of a new shorter transect which could monitor the changes of the butterfly numbers as the Local Nature Reserve establishes itself. This would be a useful way to engage the local community and educational establishments. Whilst it is excellent that this site is protected for future generations, it would be good to see the development of a more natural wetland. There have definitely been missed opportunities on the site and in the immediate area to enhance wildlife and habitat, especially for a probably extinct rare water beetle in Gwithian stream. However, there is still scope and time for this and one must be grateful for what has been achieved by everyone so far. Hopefully, in the future, this Local Nature Reserve might realise its full potential as a safe haven for migrating and nesting birds and not be treated as an amenity area.

Lundy Bay (Transect started in 2000) – a very beautiful coastal site.

Update from Kevin Sharp - National Trust

Not surprisingly, transect visits and butterfly numbers were down this year at Lundy Bay due to a poor summer. Of the 20 species recorded this year, only Green

Hairstreak were up. This species certainly benefited from the early summer that we enjoyed back in April/May. In fact we recorded the largest Green Hairstreak count for a single transect since records began (2000)!

Valency Valley.

Update from Mike Simmonds NT - Boscastle.

Despite awkward access due to flood alleviation work and disappearance of the first meadow under several thousand tonnes of stored soil! We continue to try and keep on top of things! A hay cut of the second meadow was taken in September 2006 and a winter cut of the lower glade and some blackthorn cutting higher up the slope also done - suffering from being short staffed and over stretched to do regular transects in Spring 2007. Then the whole of June and July (as for us all) were a complete write-off weather wise!! We did manage to survey Pearl-bordered Fritillaries during the early season, but saw no Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries. There were loads of Silver-washed Fritillaries again when we finally got a chance to survey in August. Still lacking time to go out regularly due to lack of staff and other more pressing work. Will hopefully get one of my volunteers to submit the whole season's results (for what they are worth) later on. Will hopefully continue with habitat management during the autumn and winter.

Watchhouse Field and Penlee Battery (Mt. Edgumbe House and Country Park).

This transect was started by Nick Butcher in 2005 and he has a couple of able recorders to help out. This is an interesting site - geologically speaking it is on a slice of limestone, which is rare in Cornwall. Nick has recorded Small-Pearl and Dark Green Fritillaries on his transect. The transect is part coastal and also crosses a wildflower meadow so it sounds well worth a visit. Like the rest of us the weather has made it difficult for recording at times. In the local area there have been possible sightings of Pearl-bordered so if anyone can come up with a definite Pearl-bordered sighting Nick would like to know!

Welcombe and Marsland Nature Reserve.

Gary Pilkington continues to maintain the best Pearl-bordered Fritillary site in Cornwall. His work has been an inspiration to others and one farmer on Bodmin Moor has successfully incorporated techniques learnt from Gary on his land. These techniques have resulted in improved numbers of Pearl-bordered Fritillaries. Anyone visiting Devon Wildlife Trust's website can find details of the site and the results of Gary's monitoring. <http://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/reserve/Marsland/more-info/> This nature reserve is well worth a visit especially anyone wishing to improve their Pearl-bordered numbers.

West Penwith.

Update from Jon Brookes - National Trust.

The National Trust warden teams in West Penwith have worked hard over many years to reintroduce sensitive management to the cliffs and downs under our care. Working in partnership with our local farmers, the Environmentally Sensitive Areas schemes and, presently, with the HEATH Project - a European funded Inter-regional project using funding to provide the infrastructure for Heathland management, we now have stock grazing management over the majority of our properties with some major schemes pending, i.e. cattle grids on the North Coast road to enable the inclusion of grazing schemes on Carn Galva and Watchcroft.

At the start of the 2007 season we decided that Butterfly transects would be the best way to monitor the effect of management and agreed to take on two transects, one from Cape Cornwall through to Botallack and one on Treveal cliffs in Zennor. Good intentions were inhibited by two factors, firstly our ID skills and secondly by a hectic work programme.

Continued over.....

The initial problem was overcome by the enthusiastic support from Sally Foster and her very able team from Butterfly Conservation who visited both sites and gave their time and expertise to train our staff in ID skills and transect paperwork. The second problem was not so easy to overcome and consequently we decided to abandon formal transects for this year, but to take on informal walks to identify the presence of chosen species, they being, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Silver-studded Blue and Grayling. Bearing in mind that butterflies haven't been enjoying their best season, we identified five areas for Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries (Maen Cliff, Cape Cornwall, Treveal cliff, Trevean and an extensive area from Kenidjack Head to Botallack). The Silver-studded Blue has only been seen this year in the Wheal Cock area of Botallack with one lonely Grayling on Treveal. We are now programming formal transects for next year and look forward to working with Jim Barker and team.

(Articles collated and edited by Sally Foster)

Editor's note:

All on the Cornwall Butterfly Conservation Committee thank Sally for her tireless and unceasing work for conservation in Cornwall especially on behalf of the butterflies and invertebrates that haven't got a voice! We will very much miss her input and expertise. I know how much the habitat means to her so please take note of all she has said, controversial though it might be. Your attention is kindly drawn to the statement at the bottom of page 19.

Butterflies, Moths and Golf Courses – A Winning Combination!

By Brian Cornelius (Cheshire & Peak District Branch)

Golf courses are increasingly being recognised as important landscapes that, with appropriate management, are capable of supporting considerable wildlife diversity. The U.K. alone supports over 3000 golf courses containing in excess of 150,000 hectares



'The 7th to 9th Fairway'

of land. Figures indicate that up to 40% of golf courses may need regular management, leaving 60% available for wildlife activity. This can only be good news for butterflies and moths. All of the different habitat types are represented on golf courses and individual golf clubs are recognising the importance of connecting the different habitats for the benefit of our native butterflies and moths.

In March 2005, George Martin, Branch Organis-

er, asked me if I would be interested in helping to promote butterfly conservation on golf courses with the intention of including golf course managers in the expanding Cheshire Butterfly Conservation Award Scheme. With the help of Dr. Emma Gardner, a research fellow at the Research Institute for the Built and Human Environment University of Salford, and encouraged by Bob Taylor, Senior Ecologist at the Sports Turf Research Institute

(STRI), a book '*Golf Course Management for the benefit of Butterflies and Moths*', has been produced.

The book has been devised as a practical guide to golf course management. The needs of butterflies and moths are described together with the different habitats likely to be found on the golf course. Management techniques are explained in order to encourage the growth of a variety of food plants to attract as many species of butterfly and moth as possible. By increasing the variety of food plants and establishing shelter and over-wintering sites, the number of butterflies and moths can dramatically increase. Potential habitats include grassland, woodland, wetland and hedgerows. Also included is an identification guide for 20 of our regularly seen butterflies and a few day flying moths. The life cycles of the species covered is included together with a habitat 'threats and actions' list. Benefits have already been seen on some of the golf courses in this country. Visionary green-keepers such as Steve Oultram with the help of Bob Taylor have been implementing positive management techniques for a few years. Steve Oultram, Course Manager at Wilmslow Golf Club, developed a magnificent wildflower meadow in front of the first tee, the grasses and wildflowers teemed with a variety of butterfly and moth species throughout 2005-2006 to the delight of members and visitors.

It is to be hoped that U.K. course managers, green-keepers and club committee members will use this user friendly book alongside their daily management regimes to increase the number of butterflies and moths on and surrounding their golf course.

Golf Course Management for the benefit of Butterflies and Moths has been sponsored by The Royal and Ancient, the body responsible for golf in the U.K. and the Branch. The guidelines in the book are not just applicable to golf courses and can be adopted for many other green areas. If there is a small area which is unlikely to be disturbed then we have a potential habitat site. There are our gardens but local authorities have large areas under their control and these offer marvellous sites for development e.g. schools, colleges and universities. There are also possibilities on Business Parks. The task is to make people aware of the opportunities and encourage them to make a start at creating wildlife areas. This book will help organisations to identify what needs to happen.

You can help by purchasing the book and encouraging the people you come into contact with to see where they can create wildlife areas.

The book can be ordered using the order form enclosed with this copy of Branch News. Please complete and return to me with your cheque for £5.95 per copy.

For more information please contact:

Brian Cornelius, The Croft, 8 Cobbs Lane, Hough, Cheshire CW2 5JN (address for order form below).

Tel: 01270 842363 E-mail: brian.cornelius44@tiscali.co.uk

Please send me ... copy/copies of *Golf Course Management for the benefit of Butterflies and Moths*. I enclose the sum of £

Name

Address

.....cut here.....

Jayne Herbert, our web-mistress, is offering her Web Design and Hosting facilities. We thank her for all she does for our website (see over). ~Ed.



*Cornwall Butterfly
Conservation*
A local Butterfly Conservation Group

Web Design and Hosting

By
Jayne Herbert
Cornwall Butterfly Conservation's Web Manager

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Extract from an e-mail sent to John Worth and Roger Lane regarding a four-legged Red Admiral.

I have been advised by Phil Boggis that you may be interested in an observation I made with my wife regarding Red Admirals in Devon during August 2007 at Hotel Endsleigh in Milton Abbot which was also seen by one of the gardeners there. I was with my wife visiting the gardens on 23rd. August when I noticed a 4 legged Red Admiral and assumed it had lost 2 legs. However, on examining a number of specimens on the same Buddleia, I noticed 2 others that also had 4 legs. I then inspected them for signs of damage or lost limbs but they looked like complete specimens. I then started to assume that I was mistaken that butterflies as insects do indeed have 6 legs! So I asked the gardener who was nearby and he looked and assured me that they should have 6 legs too.

We went on our way and walked to the other side of the garden valley (at least 100m as the crow flies) and found another Buddleia to observe 2 more Red Admirals with the same 4 legs. I have now looked up in my butterfly book to confirm that I was not going mad but that these Red Admirals should have had 6 legs. So was I seeing a family that had a mutation? Is this unusual? Is it important etc?

Please feel free to ask for more facts that I should have included. Unfortunately, we did not have our camera with us so no photo evidence.

Charles Bradshaw-Smith

A Quiet Start to the New Year (2008)

By Roger Lane our Migrant Officer.

Although January 2008 was mild again, it was also quite wet (as opposed to January 2007 which was basically mild and dry). Many days with temperatures of 10 degrees C+ were ruined by early morning rain or daytime showers. Butterflies just do not like wet ground, especially with any additional wind-chill and seldom anywhere warm to alight. The first places

to dry out are Holly bushes' glossy evergreen leaves, at a variety of angles to the sun.

However, what has been about? Well, precious little in Cornwall it seems! Red Admirals are way down on January 2007. All sightings in January 2008 for Cornwall struggled to reach a score (except for repeats of 'the same old four' at Trenarren!). The earliest Red Admiral was apparently seen on 4th January 2008 (PS), at Seaton. Despite daily forays, I did not see any until 12th January 2008, 'peaking' on 17th January, with FIVE. Interestingly, at least 2 of the 5 were of a new brood, freshly emerged, probably that day which is only 3 days later than 2007 with at least one on 14th January, and 10+ by 17th January 2007; all at Trenarren, of course! This year, in January 2008, I found that only 4 Red Admirals had emerged there, by the 26th/27th January). They have been decidedly sparse, especially the overwintered specimens, but this has been reflected throughout the country with no 'other' new broods having been detected.

I believe the only other species seen in January 2008 was the Peacock. I noted one on 17th January 2007 at Pentewan, whilst one was seen at Ponto Mill on 26th January 2008 (Lee Slaughter), and a second individual, adjacent to Goss Moor, on the same day (Phil Harris), but doubtless there were others, the Peacock being 'not uncommon' in Cornwall during January. We just have not had the sun!

Away from Cornwall, it has been slightly better with the following species seen in flight during January:

SIX SPECIES for Great Britain namely, Peacock, 6th January 2008; Brimstone, 8th January 2008; Red Admiral, 9th January 2008; and, on 26th January 2008, a Small Tortoiseshell, a Comma and a Speckled Wood, all in various different counties.

All in all a rather slow start to the season, with little prospect of warmer, drier weather!

~ Roger Lane (Migration Officer) 2nd February 2008.

Cornwall Butterfly Conservation Butterfly and Moth Field Meetings 2008.

Saturday 3rd May – 11:00 am – Minadew Brakes, Kingsand, Nr Rame Head.

An energetic walk amongst some unusual habitat within sight of the south coast to try and locate a colony of Pearl-bordered Fritillary that has been noted here at odd times over the last 6 years by reliable recorders. There are sizeable colonies of Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary also to be found here so the use of nets will probably have to be used should both species be on the wing to distinguish between the species. Should we confirm the Pearl-bordered Fritillary exists at this locality it would be a find of national importance! Bring a packed lunch and good walking boots.

Leader – Phil Harris.

Meet at small car park/pull off up a narrow unfenced road 1 mile N/E of Kingsand at map ref. SX438514.

For details and directions ring Phil Harris on 07845 984426.

Thursday 8th May – 11:00 am St. Breward Quarry (Disused), Bodmin Moor.

We will seek out existing colonies of Pearl-bordered Fritillary and look carefully if these have spread or for new ones, which is a distinct possibility as large amounts of habitat management work has been carried out over the last few years in this area of Bodmin Moor by various organisations and local landowners hoping to benefit this species. Other spring species should be seen also. Bring a packed lunch and good walking boots.

Leader – Sally Foster.

Meet at St Breward Quarry (Disused) at map ref. SX095765.

For details and directions phone Sally Foster on 01736 753259.

Saturday 10th May – 11:00am – Valency Valley, Boscastle.

This valley was ravaged by the devastating flood that hit Boscastle in August 2004. Early indications show that just upstream, in the Valency Valley, both the Pearl-bordered and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterfly have benefited from the more open habitat created by the flood waters. We would hope to see both species today during a guided walk by Phil Harris who has surveyed this species for many years. Other spring species should also be seen. cont. over.....

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Leader Phil Harris.

Meet in the car park in Boscastle at o/s map ref. SX100913.

For details and directions phone Phil Harris on 07845 984426.

Sunday 11th May – 11:00am – West Goss Moor, Nr. Indian Queens.

The course of this old railway line harbours one of only two surviving colonies in Cornwall. We will be looking for egg laying female Grizzled Skippers with a note to recording their egg laying sites. We may also try a nearby area of Goss Moor to see if there maybe another population extant of this species where there is a recent reliable record. Dingy skippers should also be seen!

Leader – Paul Browning.

Meet at map ref. SW931599 on lay-by along the OLD A30.

For details and directions phone Paul Browning on 01736 763677.

Saturday 17th May – 2:00pm – 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. Please do bring your camera as photography is comparatively easy at this locality. Brimstones are usually seen together with Small Heath, Holly Blue and Orange Tip. Plenty of easy parking available.

Leader – Lee Slaughter.

Meet at map ref. SX117675 at fork in road.

For details and directions phone Lee Slaughter on 01726 817505.

Saturday 7th June – 1:00pm – Breney Common, Nr. Lanlivery.

Our annual visit to probably Cornwall's largest Marsh Fritillary colony. Good numbers of this species should be seen together with Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Small Heath, Brimstone, Green Hairstreak and usually a few interesting moths too! Photography is almost always easy here so do bring your camera and good walking boots.

Leader – Phil Boggis.

Meet at map ref. SX053610, Breney Common car park.

Saturday 7th June – 9:15pm – Kit Hill Top Car Park, Nr. Callington.

Moth Spectacular on National Moth Night.

A Cornwall Moth Group and The Countryside Team event. We will be recording all moths that are seen and come to light from dusk onwards as part of National Moth Night. There is a small charge of £2.00 per adult or £1.50 for concessions or £6.00 for a family which will include a cup of soup. Please note that there will NOT be a charge for Cornwall Moth Group members except for refreshments. Booking essential for non CMG members. Phone The Countryside Team on 01872 323468. Commence 9:15pm to 11:30pm but you may stay much later if you wish. Bring a torch & warm clothing for this and any other moth event.

Leader – Phil Boggis.

Meet at map ref. SX375714 at Kit Hill top car park at 9:15pm.

For details and directions phone Phil Boggis on 01726 66124.

Saturday 14th June – 1:00pm – Deer Park Wood then Greenscoombe Woods, Luccett.

One of Britain's rarest and most threatened butterflies, the Heath Fritillary, still exists in Cornwall at Deer Park Wood in it's managed habitat, but is now again to be found in it's original main Cornish colony at Greenscoombe Woods, Luccett after it became extinct there after 2002. After it's reintroduction to parts of the woodlands in the summer of 2006, it has become re-established and re-colonised it's former habitat which has been much improved by clearance and management work. We are very grateful to local recorder and expert on this species, Richard Vulliamy who will lead us around both sites showing us the best areas to observe this butterfly and advise what past and current management work is being carried out for the benefit of this threatened species. The butterfly is breeding well now at Greenscoombe Woods and it is always a joy for enthusiasts from Cornwall, Devon and often much further afield to visit these woods to marvel at the many Heath Fritillary butterflies that would be seen throughout June every year. Due to limited parking at both localities, it is suggested that parking takes place at Luccett village car park at o/s map ref – SX389737.

Leader – Richard Vulliamy.

For details and directions phone Richard on 01579 370411.

Saturday 14th June – 9:00pm – Pontoys Mill, Nr. St. Blazey.

Mid-summer Moths At Pontoys Mill.

With the Cornwall Moth Group, The Friends Of Luxulyan Valley and The Fox Club. This event will begin at dusk and you should bring a torch and wrap up well. Meet at Pontoys Mill car park. Past nothing

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events here have bought in a list exceeding 125 different species of moth for one evening's recording at a single locality!

Leader – Phil Boggis.

Meet at map ref. SX073562 in the free car park at the end of the single track road.

For details and directions phone Phil Boggis on 01726 66124.

Friday 20th June – 9:30pm – Kilminorth Woods, Seaton Valley, Looe.

Midsummer Mothing For The Scarce Merveille du Jour Moth.

We have high hopes of seeing this RDB3 moth here again near the Oak trees that it breeds on. The sedentary Scarce Merveille du Jour moth has almost certainly continuously bred in the Seaton Valley since shortly after the last Ice Age! This meeting is organised by Cornwall Moth Group in conjunction with The Fox Club in celebration of National Insect Week. Booking for non Cornwall Moth Group members by ringing Kirsty on 01872 273939 xtn. 203. The moth light will be on from dusk until late but meet at 9:30pm. Please bring a torch and a flask of coffee etc. and wrap up well.

Leader – Phil Boggis.

Meet at map ref. SX248538. Entrance to Lower Kilminorth Woods, sharp left 250 yards before Looe Bridge coming from a westerly direction on the main road.

For full details and directions phone Phil Boggis on 01726 66124.

Saturday 21st June – 2:00pm Perran Sands and Penhale Sands, Nr. Perranporth.

A Midsummer ramble over Britain's highest sand dunes complex to see large numbers of freshly emerged Silver-studded Blues. We would also hope to see Large Skippers, Small Skippers, Meadow Browns, Common Blues, Dark Green Fritillary, Scarlet Tiger Moth and Humming-bird Hawk-moth. Please bring a drink, sun hat, sun protection and good walking boots.

Leaders Lee Slaughter and Phil Boggis.

Meet at map ref. SW774553 in lay-by on edge of road opposite the turning to Rose.

For details and directions phone Lee Slaughter on 01726 817505 or Phil Boggis on 01726 66124.

Sunday 6th July – 11.00am Pendeen Watch Lighthouse, North of Cape Cornwall.

A superb and energetic walk along the most south-westerly coastline of England which, given good weather, should yield excellent numbers of Graylings, Meadow Browns, Silver-studded Blues, Dark Green Fritillaries and possible migratory Clouded Yellows, Painted Ladies, Humming-bird Hawk-moths and other migratory species. Please bring a packed lunch, drink, sun cream and good walking boots.

Leader – Phil Harris.

Meet at map ref. SW378358 in the car park at Pendeen Watch Lighthouse.

For full details and directions phone Phil Harris on 07845 984426.

Saturday 19th July – 11:00 am Upton Towans, Nr. Hayle.

A lovely walk through the extensive coastal dunes by Gwithian at Upton Towans. We hope to see many Dark Green Fritillary butterflies and would like to count/estimate numbers seen and also any behavioural features in either the males or females of this spectacular species. The 2nd brood of Small Heaths should now be appearing and it would be good to look closely at each adult seen with particular attention to some of the females which we have noticed appear to be larger than other females and much deeper in colour. Other Summer flying species will also be seen including Silver-studded Blues, Common Blues and maybe Brown Argus too! Please bring a packed lunch, drink, sun cream, and good walking boots.

Leader – Paul Browning.

Meet at map ref. SW579398 at entrance by gate to the Cornwall Wildlife Trust area.

For full details and directions phone Paul Browning on 01736 763677.

Saturday 9th August – 11:00am Kynance Cove, Nr. The Lizard.

Be prepared for a beautiful walk at this famous locality for lepidoptera. We would certainly hope to see most of the following species: Grayling, Dark Green Fritillary, Clouded Yellow (including Helice), Small Heath, 2nd brood Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Common Blue, Wall Brown, Gatekeeper, Painted Lady and Red Admiral. Please bring a packed lunch, drink, sun cream and good walking boots. Park in main Kynance Cove car park and meet near the toilet block at the Southern end of the car park.

Leader – Phil Boggis.

Meet at map ref. SW688132 in main Kynance Cove Car Park.

For full details and directions phone Phil Boggis on 01726 66124.

The opinions expressed in the articles of this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Cornwall Branch, or Butterfly Conservation.

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