

In memoriam

Anthony Malcolm Vincent Hoare (1946-2021)

'Tony' Hoare as we know him, loved the Waterhouse building from the days of his youth and had a love of butterflies for as long as he could remember. Tony had been a valued member of the museum, one of our volunteers in the Butterfly Collections with the longest service, and also one of the museum patrons. In 2002 he attended an event at the museum and asked if there were opportunities for volunteers in the Entomology (Insects) section in the Life Sciences Department. He was snapped up by Julie Harvey, who was the Head of the Library then giving Tony some work with the separate Entomological Library. Tony joined also the Lepidoptera Collections under the supervision of Phil Ackery (former Collections Manager) who gave him the job to rehouse the *Morpho* butterflies collections. Tony continued working until the Entomological Library was transferred to the main library then he put all his efforts in helping with the butterfly collections. In 2005 Dr Blanca Huertas invited Tony to help her with a large-scale project to re-curate over 78,000 Metalmarks butterflies (Riodinidae family) in the collections.



The Metalmarks project took five years giving Tony a sense of *connoisseur* in the group. Tony also helped with many legacy and recently acquired collections such as those of McArthur-Hu, Larsen and Whitter, among others. His visits once a week for so many years, made a great difference in the layout of the collections, in times when the number of paid staff declined. Because of his work with the collections, he was nominated and won one of the prestigious *London Volunteers Awards* in 2011. Over the years, new volunteers joined the Lepidoptera team, including Nigel Peace, Clive Huggins and Bob Worthy. Sharing

their passion and skill for photography, Tony and Nigel became very good friends since 2009 and travelled the world together with renowned photographer Adrian Hoskins. They visited India (2013 & 15), Far East Russia (2017 & 19), Malaysia (2016), Argentina (2018), and Thailand (2018) with other distant trips including Sichuan & Yunnan in Western China, Florida and North East Turkey, photographing living butterflies in their natural habitats. An important aspect of butterfly photography is etiquette in the field – allowing others to get their shots, not hogging the butterfly for oneself and not frightening it away. Tony always behaved admirably in these respects. And that sums him up – not just an enthusiast, but a gentleman too. Tony was polite, sensible, easy to talk to, and it was always reassuring to have him around. He was a charismatic and important member of the community, not only for the butterflies and the museum. We will be forever grateful for Tony's legacy, giving his spare time to help sorting out the collections, also through his generous contributions to the museum as a Patron and his actions to protect UK butterflies as Vice-President of Butterfly Conservation. The last project Tony was working on was the re-curation of the *Colias* butterflies. It was only a few days from being completed, but the pandemic closed the museum's doors and the whole team stopped working in the collections. However, we continued seeing each other regularly online, until a few days before Tony passed away suddenly at his home on 14th March 2021.



Tony's ever-cheerful presence and knowledge of butterflies will be greatly missed by his family at NHM.

Words and photos by **Dr Blanca Huertas** and Lepidoptera Volunteers **Nigel Peace, Clive Huggins** and **Bob Worthy**.

With thanks to Fiona McWilliams, Sarah Hammond and Alanna Fisher in Development for sharing information about Tony.