

Autumn/Winter 2021

Number 72

# SURREY *Skipper*



Butterfly Conservation  
Surrey & SW London



Saving butterflies, moths  
& our environment

## Branch Committee

<b>Chair</b>	Simon Saville (first elected 2016)	07572 612722
<b>Conservation Adviser</b>	Ken Willmott (1995)	01372 375773
<b>Field Trips</b>	Mike Weller (1997)	01306 882097
<b>Membership</b>	Ken Owen (2015)	01737 760811
<b>Moth Officer</b>	Paul Wheeler (2006)	01276 856183
<b>Skipper Editor</b>	Francis Kelly (2012)	07952 285661, 01483 278432
<b>Social Media</b>	Francis Kelly (& Mick Rock)	see above
<b>Transects/WCBS Coordinator</b>	Bill Downey (2015)	07917 243984, 0208 9495498
<b>Treasurer (Acting)</b>	Peter Camber (2011)	020 8224 2957
<b>Website</b>	Francis Kelly & Ken Owen	see above
<b>Committee member</b>	Clive Huggins (2014)	0208 9427846
<b>Committee member</b>	Richard Stephens (2021)	07815 444166, 01342 892022

ALSO

**National Council Chair** Karen Goldie-Morrison (Branch member)

**Oaken Wood** (Branch reserve) Steve Wheatley

**Conservation & Recording sub-committee** Bill Downey (Chair), Ken Elsom, Pamela Harwood, Gail Jeffcoate, Simon Riley, Simon Saville, Steve Wheatley

## Media

<b>Website</b>	<i>butterfly-conservation.org/surrey</i>	<b>Email</b> <i>surreybranch@gmail.com</i>
<b>Twitter</b>	@BC_Surrey, @surreymoths	<b>Recording</b> <i>irecord.org.uk</i>
<b>Facebook</b>	<b>Branch page</b> ..... Butterfly Conservation in Surrey <b>Groups</b> ..... Surrey Butterflies (Mick Rock), Surrey Moths <b>Conservation groups</b> ..... Small Blues in Surrey, Wealden Wood Whites	

## Surrey Skipper

*thank you to all contributors*

	<i>copy deadline</i>	<i>published online</i>
<b>Spring</b>	<b>end Feb</b> ..... mid-March	<i>includes new season's field trips</i>
<b>Autumn</b>	<b>end Sep</b> ..... mid-October	<i>previews AGM &amp; Members' Day</i>

- The full *Surrey Skipper* is published online only. A *Small Skipper* is posted to members who have indicated they have difficulty accessing the online version.

## Front-page picture

**Simon Saville** completes his *Bike for Butterflies* at John o'Groats on July 21

**LINK** *When reading on screen, click underlined link to visit webpage*

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## Chair

**Simon Saville**

SEPTEMBER temperatures in London rose above 30°C, eclipsing the hottest day in August this year, which is very unusual. We had severe floods in London in July, and the evidence that climate change is already here is overwhelming.

The UN Secretary General called the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report a “Code Red for humanity”, reflecting the urgency and severity of the climate and environment crisis.

Closer to home, we have had another year of extraordinary weather: a sunny but cold April, followed by a wet May, a short summer heatwave, floods in July, a cool August, and a hot September. Climate change is making extreme weather events both more common and more severe. How on earth is wildlife going to cope?

Despite everything, I hope that you have been able to enjoy butterflies and moths in the green spaces near you. I saw my highest-ever tally of British butterfly species this year – 51 – boosted by my Bike For Butterflies ride, which I describe on the next page.

Since getting back, one of my highlights was to visit the wildlife meadow at the



Addiscombe, Woodside and Shirley Leisure Gardens, an allotment site near Croydon where 25 species of butterflies have been recorded. This is thanks to hard work by Malcolm Bridge and others. It shows what can be done on an “ordinary” piece of land in London. I would love to see more parks in our area managed for wildlife – there is no reason why any park cannot

have 20+ species of butterfly. Something to aim for, surely?

As the Brilliant Butterflies project led by LWT draws to a close, the Big City Butterflies project in London is already underway and making great progress. Read more on pages 11-13.

Paul Cawsey takes over the Wood White project from Fiona Haynes, who has moved on to a permanent role with ARC Trust. Since 2017, Fiona has done a great job for BC in our area, for which the butterflies will ever be grateful, and we will miss her. Read Paul’s introduction on page 15.

Tony Hoare, who made an extraordinary contribution to BC at both branch and national level, died suddenly in March. David Hanson pays tribute on page 16.

● *continued on page 5*

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## Bike for Butterflies

Simon Saville

IN June-July I took on the challenge of cycling 1,200 miles from Land's End to John o'Groats in 30 days to raise money for Butterfly Conservation.

As I set off, the weather was fine and it seemed fitting that a Red Admiral greeted me. I took this as a good omen, and what an experience the ride turned out to be!

On day one I was blown away by the numbers of Silver-studded Blues at Upton Towans in Cornwall, as I was again at BC's Prees Heath Reserve in Shropshire a couple of weeks later.

It reminded me of my youth, when butterflies flew in abundance, and brought a tear to my eye. At times though, it was worrying to see rich flower verges with very few insects, let alone butterflies. Overall, I saw 34 different species of butterfly, despite missing out on Peacock, Large Blue and several others.

The steep hills in Cornwall and Devon were a baptism of fire. Reaching the top of Exmoor at nearly 1,600ft was a struggle, and some days I felt I could not make it to the hotel.

I was struck that the Ringlet was the commonest July butterfly in NW England



*Land's End, June 22, 2021*

and much of Scotland – having been absent from these regions until about 10 years ago. A testament to the effects of climate change.

It was also remarkable that the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary is a common butterfly in much of southern Scotland, while it is extinct from Surrey and needs special woodland management to help it survive in the south east.

Throughout the ride, I saw great examples of urban wildflower meadows – in Bristol, Glasgow, and Accrington for example. We really can do a lot for butterflies in our towns and cities, and it is neither difficult nor expensive. Milnshaw Park Meadow in Accrington was created in

Simon Saville will present ***My Bike for Butterflies*** at our Members' Day on Nov 6. It will also be the subject of a Zoom talk on Jan 25.

You can still donate online until Dec 1 at

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/bikeforbutterflies](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/bikeforbutterflies)





*Shap Fell, Cumbria, July 8*

2018, but already has 18 species.

Most of all, though, I will remember the passionate, generous and big-hearted people that I met on the way. They helped me when times were tough; they chivvied me along; they were endlessly hospitable; they gave me accommodation; and they gave freely of their time and knowledge. They, and others like them, really make a difference for wildlife, and give us hope.

Now that my legs have recovered, I have started to think about a Bike for Butterflies Rides Again in 2022. Watch this space!

We are still adding up the various donations, but it looks like we have raised £33,000+, over double our initial target. My thanks to everyone who has donated: your generosity will help Butterfly Conservation do even more to help our beleaguered butterflies and moths.

### **CHAIR continued from page 3**

We are again holding the Branch AGM via Zoom. Please join us on Wed 27 Oct at 7pm. Short formalities will be followed by an informal Q&A session. See page 6

We are all keen to return to in-person meetings, so we are holding our Members' Day on Sat 6 Nov in East Horsley Village Hall. We aim to make this as "social" as

possible, so please come along and enjoy some friendly "butterfly time" – details on page 7. I hope to see you there.

Our online talks last winter proved popular – recordings are on YouTube. We are planning a similar series this winter, see page 9. Latest information will always be on the website, so please keep alert to this.

# Virtual AGM

*via Zoom*

**Wed 27 October, 19.00**



All members are invited to our virtual AGM. To receive a link, please email your name to [surreybranch@gmail.com](mailto:surreybranch@gmail.com) by Mon 25 Oct.

Proposals/comments also welcome.

**Voting** If you are unable to attend, please use Google Forms to vote for:

**1** Approval of last year's minutes

**2** Committee elections

**LINK** Google Forms voting: <https://forms.gle/Ntr4qkzWoXWH1Hu66>

Alternatively, votes/proposals/comments are welcome by post to:  
Surrey Branch Secretary, 1 Woodstock Close, Cranleigh GU6 7LD

## AGENDA

**1** Apologies

**2** Approval of last year's minutes: *page 10*

**3** Matters arising

**4** Chairman

**5** Treasurer: *page 8*

**6** \*Committee elections

*en bloc*

**7** Any other business, to be notified in advance

Informal Q&A to follow the formal AGM

\***Standing for election** Richard Stephens

\***Standing for re-election** Bill Downey, Ken Owen

● Minutes will be posted on [butterfly-conservation.org/surrey](http://butterfly-conservation.org/surrey) within one month.

Would you like to help run our Branch?

We are seeking new committee members, including a Treasurer.

All contributions, large or small, are welcome.

If you could get involved in any way,  
please email [surreybranch@gmail.com](mailto:surreybranch@gmail.com)

# Members' Day

*East Horsley Village Hall*

**Sat 6 November, 14.00-16.30**



**13.30** Doors open

**14.00** Chair's welcome

**14.05** Bike for Butterflies .....Simon Saville

**14.45** Prize Digital Photo Show .....Francis Kelly

**14.55** My Butterfly Year .....Francis Kelly

**15.05** Light refreshments

**15.50** Photo Show result, Quiz results, Raffle, Q&A

**16.30** End, **17.00** Doors Close

## QUIZ

**Ken & Gillian Elsom**, winners in 2019, are setting the questions.

Please collect a quiz sheet on arrival; tackle the questions during the afternoon.

## RAFFLE

Raffle prizes will be gratefully received, e.g. books, bottles.

Please hand them to **Mike Weller** on arrival.

## PRIZE DIGITAL PHOTO SHOW

**Please submit up to THREE photos for our Members' Day Show**

- Adult butterflies only, taken in Surrey this year
- Please email photos (full res), with your name, species, site & any notes, **by October 31**, to: [surreybranch@gmail.com](mailto:surreybranch@gmail.com)  
Please **attach** photos (pasting into the email loses resolution)
- Best photos will be selected for the Show
- Attendees will be asked to vote for the winner
- Winning photo will be featured in the Surrey Skipper
- Entrants need not be present. ● Organiser's decisions are final.

## VENUE

Village Hall, Kingston Avenue, East Horsley KT24 6QT

*Six minutes walk SW of Horsley Station.*



## Financial Commentary

Peter Camber, Acting Treasurer

*These comments relate to the year ended 31 March 2021*

THE exceptional circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic limited our opportunities for branch events and fieldwork, which in turn limited both income and expenditure for the year.

### Income

Branch income for the year was limited to membership subscriptions of £8,400, there being no donations or sales of goods. This compares to subscriptions of £8,103 and total income of £8,840 last year.

### Expenditure

Total operating costs for the year were just £767, significantly lower than last year's figure of £2,899.

Publicity costs were limited to the design and printing of 2,500 copies of a new and improved branch leaflet which, at £83, represented excellent value.

Membership support costs were limited to postage and £179 for the Skipper magazine. Unfortunately, the planned New Members' Day in July had to be cancelled and it wasn't possible to publish an Annual Report on Butterflies & Moths.

Management costs included £102 for an annual subscription to Zoom, which was used for committee meetings, webinars and the AGM. We were unable to hold a Members' Day and the deposit of £150 paid for catering services, although not refundable, has been carried forward for a future event.



### BC projects

The budgeted contribution of £5,000 towards the Big City Butterflies project was made, together with the first of three annual payments of £2,000 committed towards its running costs. A further £10,500 was paid to BC for application to other projects at their discretion.

### Closing balance and 2021/22 budget

The above income and expenditure resulted in a year-end cashbook balance of £3,260, some of which has been earmarked for supporting conservation projects in 2021/22.

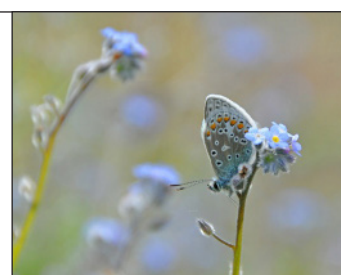
The budget includes our £2,000 annual contribution to the Big City Butterflies project and £525 that has been carried forward to complete the Heart Moth project. In addition, we have budgeted approximately £2,500 to support our practical conservation work parties on the North Downs and the Wood White project at Oaken Wood.

### Conclusion

In spite of the exceptional circumstances, the Branch managed to provide considerable financial support for BC projects this year; a total of £17,500 against a budget of £13,000. Although our practical conservation projects to improve habitats for butterflies and moths were limited by the pandemic restrictions, we look forward to the resumption of volunteer work parties in the year ahead.

REMEMBERING Butterfly Conservation in your will is one of the most effective ways to help ensure butterflies and moths thrive in years to come. Legacies represent over a third of our voluntary income and make a crucial contribution to our work.

● Please contact Dorset head office: 01929 40020  
[info@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:info@butterfly-conservation.org)





## Income & Expenditure

Year ending March 2021

	Closing Balance 2019/20	£12,278	Notes
Head Office adjustment: revised treatment of VAT and stock values		£1,000	
	Opening Balance 2020/21	£13,278	
<b>Income</b>			
<b>Receipts from Head Office</b>	Membership subs	£8,400	
<b>Other income</b>		-	
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£8,400</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>			
<b>Payments to Head Office</b>	Insurance	£28	Field equipment
<b>Fundraising/publicity</b>	Branch leaflet	£83	2,500 copies
	Cost of goods sold	£35	
<b>Conservation</b>	Training courses	£201	First Aid
	Field equipment	£63	
<b>Membership</b>	Postage	£77	
	Surrey Skipper	£179	
<b>Management &amp; governance</b>	Other committee expenses	£102	Zoom
	Members' Day/AGM	-	Held online
	<b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>£767</b>	
<b>BC project contributions</b>	Big City Butterflies	£7,000	
	Other projects	£6,000	
		£4,500	
	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£18,267</b>	
<b>Adjustments</b>			
<b>Members' Day catering</b>	Payment in advance	£150	
	<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>£3,261</b>	

## Zoom talks

WE are again planning a series of Zoom talks this winter, organised by Richard Stephens. Please see our Branch website for the latest updates.

### NOVEMBER

**Tue 9** Climate Change: Impacts on Butterflies & Moths ..**Simon Saville**

**Tue 23** 33 Butterflies Challenge  
.....**Anna Guerin**

### DECEMBER

**Tue 7** Butterfly Season in Surrey  
.....**Richard Stephens**

### JANUARY

**Tue 11** Oaken Wood .....**Paul Cawsey**

**Tue 25** Bike for Butterflies ..**Simon Saville**

**Feb/Mar** TBA

## Minutes of 26th AGM

Francis Kelly

Sat 7 Nov, 2020, 11.00 ZOOM

**Chair:** Simon Saville

Attendance **21** (quorum 15); email voters **22**

**1 Apologies** Graham Revill

**2 Minutes from 2019 AGM**

Approved.

**Michael Friend** objected that there was no record of the discussion of our “no dogs” policy for field trips, and that the policy has never been formally agreed.

**SS** replied: This was part of the Q & A.

There were no resolutions, and no votes, so no decisions were made.

**3 Matters arising** none

**4 Chair Report** see slides presentation on <https://butterfly-conservation.org/in-your-area/surrey-and-sw-london-branch/surrey-sw-london-agm-members-days>

**5 Treasurer**

Outgoing Treasurer Peter Camber summarised his report and statement that was in the Autumn Skipper.

**6 Committee** unanimously re-elected:

Clive Huggins, Francis Kelly, Paul Wheeler

**SS** thanked PC for his nine years service.

A new Treasurer is needed. The job is less onerous than it used to be since HO assumed control, and does not require specialist accounting skills.

**SS** thanked FK for this work on the Skipper and the savings in effort and cost that the online policy has delivered.

**7 Any Other Business**

**David Hasell:** I would like to register my discontent about last year’s Photo Show winner. It should never have been a valid entry. It was not a natural setting, the Long-tailed Blue having been brought from another site. And it goes against the spirit of the competition — taking photos of butterflies you come across in Surrey.

**FK** replied: I shared some of David's reservations, but the magnificence of the

photo was the overwhelming factor in my accepting it as an entry.

**Ken Owen** thanked Sanctuary Homes for sponsoring 400 butterfly ID posters, initially for distribution to schools etc in the Merstham area.

More details in the Spring Skipper.

**8 Q & A**

**Ken Elsom:** Why has BC suspended workparties during the November lockdown when other organisations are continuing?

**Bill Downey replied:** It is up to individual organisations how they interpret the unclear rules. Surrey Branch is subject to the policies of BC HO. Additionally, as we own no land of our own, we have to comply with rules set by various land managers which may differ from those issued by BC. Thus we have not been able to hold any work parties on National Trust land so far this year.

**Caroline Woodley** asked about the London Sub-Committee mentioned in Chair’s report.

**SS** replied: This includes connected organisations, e.g. LWT. Its activities will be influenced by the decision in December regarding funding for the Big City Butterflies project (Skipper, page 4).

**Mike Weller** encouraged members to look for the Wall Brown, especially in the Colley Hill area. The species may be making a return to Surrey.

**Nigel Jackman** would like online talks or additional newsletters to balance the loss of events caused by Covid-19.

**BD** said new contributors would need to step forward. We plan a search on Epsom Common for Hairstreak eggs, Black & Brown, when Covid rules allow.

● Meeting closed: 12.05

## Big City Butterflies

### INTRODUCTION

**Ele Johnstone**, *Engagement Officer*

IT has been an amazing first few months on our 4-year London project: we have been meeting our project partners at their beautiful sites across London, spotting lots of butterflies and moths along the way!

As Engagement Officer, my role focusses on delivering school workshops, community events and public events. Alongside Steve Bolton, I will introduce people to butterfly identification and recording, and encourage them to get out and about to let us know how London's butterflies are doing.

I have been delivering school workshops and a range of engagement events with our partners throughout the summer. It has been wonderful to see how readily everyone has got involved and how much enthusiasm there is towards learning more about butterflies and moths, as well as how to help them.

I helped organise a "Butterfly Day" with the Friends of Greendale (Southwark). Following positive feedback, the Friends now hope to make this an annual event to engage the local community.

We had a successful community event in collaboration with the Family Volunteering Club and the amazing Roots and Shoots (Lambeth), where local families learnt more about butterflies and moths. We are looking forward to working with them in the future.

In September, Simon Saville and I attended Nunhead Cemetery Open day. We spoke to an estimated 240 people and made some excellent contacts. I have since been contacted by schools wishing to be involved.

The team will still be busy through the winter: building relationships with partners, working on resources and planning an exciting programme of events.

### UPDATE

**Steve Bolton**, *Conservation Officer*

My role as Conservation Officer focuses on providing habitat management training and advice on identification and recording, with lots of opportunities to inspire Londoners to get involved.

A butterfly ID and training workshop in Southwark reached numerous groups online and was followed by a guided walk at Burgess Park, the project's flagship site in Southwark. The highlight was a Clouded Yellow, the first recorded in the park. The kids on the walk enjoyed a close-up view when I netted one for closer inspection. I demonstrated the use of the iRecord butterflies app as an easy method for casual recording.

Burgess Park was also used to deliver a habitat management training workshop to Southwark parks staff. The training highlights the importance of cut and collect mowing as a means of reducing soil fertility and improving diversity, alongside

techniques such as scarification and seeding. The borough ecologist is now leading on plans to fund cut and collect machinery so grassland areas can be managed more effectively for butterflies, moths and biodiversity in general.



Plant giveaway at Nunhead Cemetery. SB



## Brilliant Butterflies

Phil Sterling

**What?** Two-year project, led by LWT's Catherine Cullen, in partnership with BC & Natural History Museum

**Where?** South Croydon & Bromley

BRILLIANT Butterflies has been extended to next March, with two LWT staff working part-time. I am also helping.

The project aims are to:

- Restore chalk grassland on five LWT reserves: Hutchinson's Bank, Chapel Bank, Saltbox Hill SSSI, Riddlesdown SSSI, and West Kent Golf Course; and one Surrey WT reserve: Dollypers Hill.

- Create 40 new butterfly "banks" in urban Croydon and Bromley (and expanding into Sutton this winter!) as stepping-stones, to link the reserves and bring communities closer to wildflowers and butterflies.

- Engage 4,400 people across the area.

- Develop a short-course training programme in survey and identification of chalk grassland invertebrates, and deliver this to 25 volunteers

- Undertake environmental DNA (eDNA) surveys of invertebrates on the reserves to create an inventory of biodiversity

And we had to do all this during a pandemic!

Of course, we could not know that three months into the project we would have to rethink our approach. Our targets were reduced, we moved much of our interaction with local communities in 2020 to online, but fortunately we were able to continue habitat creation and management because these were low risk activities.

So, what did we achieve?

### NATURE RESERVES

Some 37ha of chalk grassland has been restored through volunteer and contractor effort, 84% of our target, with the remainder to be completed this winter. We were pleased to use Operation Centaur as one of the contractors to carry out cutting and harrowing using their fabulous Heavy Horses, Joey, William & Murdoch.

### BUTTERFLY BANKS

Even though our butterfly bank target was reduced to 35 because of the pandemic, we will go beyond the original target and complete 44 by early next year. The locations and descriptions are all mapped [\*here\*](#).



*Heavy Horses: Joey & William from Operation Centaur in action at Hutchinson's Bank.*

Facebook photo: **Peter Barry**

Each bank has been sown with a seed mix, and plug-planted where volunteers have been available, that includes masses of Kidney Vetch and Common Bird's-foot-trefoil, as well as key nectar sources such as Field Scabious and Marjoram.

A wet start to the summer meant that germination and growth have been better than expected. We hope to see the first Small and Common Blues on some of the banks next spring.

With the help of volunteers recruited during the project, we will follow up the progress of these banks in what will be the largest monitoring programme of its kind, looking at the effectiveness of creating pocket habitats in urban areas for wildflowers and butterflies.

If you could help recording on the banks, please contact Bill Downey.

### WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES

Community engagement has been so successful, with just under 4,000 people engaged in activities and events. There have been butterfly workshops, Big Butterfly Week, "meet the farmer" events, bush craft,

arts & crafts, big bug hunts, and online moth identification sessions.

It has been amazing to see how improving the environment has enthused local people to learn more and especially to see more butterflies.

### ENVIRONMENTAL DNA

Our colleagues at NHM, with the help of many volunteers, have identified 35,000+ DNA sequences of invertebrates. The task now is to create a baseline so we can measure changes in biodiversity.

Brilliant Butterflies has been a brilliant project. This is a snapshot of what we have been up to and you can find more at [www.wildlondon.org.uk/brilliant-butterflies](http://www.wildlondon.org.uk/brilliant-butterflies)

My thanks to all in the Branch who have helped with the project, especially Simon Saville, Bill Downey, Martin Wills and Malcolm Bridge. Also, to our key local contacts Meike Weiser at Croydon Council and Steven Lofting at Idverde Landscapes.

■ **Phil Sterling** is manager of BC's *Building Sites for Butterflies* programme.

■ **Steve Bolton**, original BC Project Officer, switched to *Big City Butterflies* in June.

Conservation projects			
Big City Butterflies			
BC officer	Start	Duration	Main funding
<b>Steve Bolton</b> Conservation <b>Ele Johnstone</b> Engagement	2021-06	4 years to 2024	National Lottery Heritage Fund £440,000
Saving the Wood White in the South East			
<b>Paul Cawsey</b> Project Officer <i>Fiona Haynes to 2021-05</i> <b>Natasha Doane</b> Volunteer Project Officer	2019-10	3 years to 2022	NLHF £93,000
Chiddingfold Forest & Surrey/Sussex borders			
Brilliant Butterflies			
<b>Phil Sterling</b> <i>Steve Bolton to 2021-05</i>	2019-09	2 years to 2022-03	People's Postcode Lottery Dream Fund £1,000,000
Managed by London Wildlife Trust, in partnership with BC & NH Museum: South Croydon & Bromley			
Other work			
<b>Small Blue Project</b> Bill Downey: <i>continuing the work of the Stepping Stones Project (2017-19)</i> <b>Oaken Wood</b> (Branch reserve) Steve Wheatley			



**Steve Wheatley****BC Conservation Manager — South East**

THIS has been one of my most intense years with BC, not least because of the scale of the challenge, the pandemic and lockdown, a cold start (coldest April nights in 99 years), and then the intense flight season and long growing season.

In the last year, six new staff have joined BC in our Region: Steve Bolton and Ele Johnstone (Big City Butterflies);

Paul Cawsey (Wood Whites); Emma Pestrige and Rebecca Levey (Kent's Magnificent Moths); and Fiona Scully (South Downs Landscape Officer, primarily in Hampshire).

There are now more Butterfly Conservation staff active in the Region (and in VC17) than ever before. In addition, Natahsa Doane is Volunteer Reserves Officer at Oaken Wood, and Steve Lockett has taken on responsibility for Bentley Station Meadow in NE Hants. Both are doing a brilliant job.

We have surveyed some of Surrey's rarest moths, including Sloe Carpet, Heart Moth, Drab Looper, Straw Belle and Lace Border. Elsewhere in the region we have covered Fiery Clearwing, Striped Lychnis and White-spotted Sable, to name a few. Moths might not have the mass appeal of butterflies but they play just as important a role and have wonderful names.

The Big Butterfly Count is an increasingly valuable tool for measuring the health of our environment. From Jul 16 – Aug 8 in VC17, 2,500+ people made 6,543 counts of 53,188 butterflies and moths. Small Whites topped the list. 2,600 Red Admirals were counted, 392 Painted Ladies, and almost as many Jersey Tigers (334). This moth was Nationally Scarce just 15 years ago.

This expansion in the range and abundance of the Jersey Tiger, and similar



changes in other species, highlights the changing fortunes of our wildlife. The August report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change indicates that environmental shifts are likely to become more pronounced and accelerate. Our data will be more important than ever.

**REGIONAL ACTION PLAN**

2021 takes us past halfway in BC's 10-year Regional Action Plan (2016-25). Of course, a plan is worth nothing unless it delivers action, and I am pleased with the action and results achieved so far.

In the last five years BC has directly delivered or funded conservation action for 20 of the highest priority butterfly and moth species. In addition, our conservation partners such as the Wildlife Trusts, National Trust, Natural England, National Parks and AONB teams have worked with us to deliver bespoke conservation action for at least 18 of these.

We have made progress in most of our 23 highest priority landscapes in the South East (including Surrey's Thames Basin Heaths, Greensand Heaths, Western Low Weald and North Downs). We have engaged extensively with land-managers in at least 16 of these landscapes. We have also engaged directly with land-managers of at least 15 of the 35 highest priority sites outside our priority landscapes.

We have delivered measurable progress on all 10 highest priority butterflies, four of which are native to Surrey (Wood White, Silver-studded Blue, Adonis Blue and Grayling). Populations of at least four of the ten have increased and the populations of four others are assessed to be stable.

Grayling is the butterfly which is causing me some worry but excellent work by volunteers and conservation partners is



producing good results.

Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary is the species we are struggling to hold onto in the South East. Widespread in Surrey in the mid-20th century, it was finally lost in 2006. Climate change appears to be driving its disappearance from our region; in Scotland it is faring relatively well without

any direct intervention and is not currently considered a high conservation priority.

Volunteers and staff have made excellent progress over the last five years. Thank you to everyone who gets active and to the people doing so much behind the scenes. Here's to the next five years of action for our beautiful butterflies and moths.

## Saving the Wood White

Paul Cawsey

*Paul Cawsey succeeded  
Fiona Haynes in August  
as Project Officer*

I have enjoyed a hectic few weeks since I started, gaining an understanding of the project area, what has been accomplished so far and what needs to be done over the next year or so.

Previously I was sustainability manager for a large facilities management company, working to enhance the biodiversity potential of sites across the UK.

I hold BSc in Environmental Science and MSc in Conservation and Land Management, I have worked in that sphere for 25+ years both in the UK and overseas.

Target for the Wood White project is to continue the great work already done, especially engaging with land owners and enabling them to develop Wood White habitat where practical. Project outreach is a crucial element and we attended the Dunsfold village fete in August, when we had the opportunity to talk to parish councillors and members of the public. More talks are in the pipeline, including at Plaistow and Dunsfold.

Practical habitat management and enhancement is another key part of the project. We have an enthusiastic group of volunteers at Oaken Wood, managed by Natasha Doane, our new volunteer reserves



*Wood White female on Forget-me-not,  
Tugley Wood, July 1, FK*

officer. We would like to expand the volunteer days, covering both Forestry Commission and private sites.

Over the next 12 months our targets include: planting at least 3km of wild flowers; training days; and establishing a legacy that continues management of Wood White habitat. This cannot be achieved without the help of volunteers, so please contact me if you would like to get involved. [pcawsey@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:pcawsey@butterfly-conservation.org)

## Tony Hoare

1946–2021

*Tony Hoare, London Branch Chair 1989-93 and National Vice-President, died suddenly at his Leatherhead home in March, aged 75.*

**David Hanson**, *National Treasurer 1998-2018, and Tony's BC colleague since the 1970s, pays tribute.*

TONY cherished his family, was proud of the bank that bears his family name and where he rose to become Managing Partner around the age of 50, AND, most fortunately for the rest of us, was passionate about butterflies.

Tony's love of butterflies started around the age of six in Dorset when he was given the Observer's Book of British Butterflies. His interest in photography brought him to BC in the 1970s. My earliest memories are from when our family joined Butterfly Conservation and met Tony and his family: field trips, scrub bashing and AGMs in the Victory Services Club near Marble Arch.

The stand out memory is of stuffing the national newsletter, which Tony edited, on the floor of their house in Kingston. Some clever machine at his bank produced the labels for the whole membership, then under 1,000, all loaded into their car to be taken to the post office on Monday morning, to the delight of the postmaster because it increased his takings.

When the volumes outgrew this approach, it was a close call as to who was more upset: the postmaster, or us at the loss of a fun Saturday afternoon with tea and fine cake!

Ian Hardy set up the London Branch in 1980 and Tony joined the committee as Secretary and sometime Newsletter Editor. With David Dunbar and especially Harold Hughes, there was a drive to a new approach in the management of BC, which left a few bruises along the way.

Tony chaired the London Branch from 1988 following in Ian and Harold's

footsteps. All went on to serve on the National Executive, with Tony a Trustee from 1987 to 1995, when he was appointed as a Vice-President. Tony's chairmanship featured meetings in the splendid, though slightly Dickensian, offices of C. Hoare & Co in Fleet Street. If only one could have opened the old ledgers to see the accounts of their top clients of the past 300 years.

The social scene benefitted greatly from Tony & Gay's hospitality each January when 40 or so members were welcomed to their home in Kingston. One of his own vivid memories was of being asked at short notice to be interviewed live on Radio London in 1986 – his first such media event.

In 1991 Vincent Weir made the magnificent gift of £1 million to establish an endowment fund and Tony was appointed to BC's newly-established Investment Committee, on which he continued to serve until his death.

Tony and Gay managed the Branch's sale of goods. Combined with the recruitment skill of Dennis Newland, the only member superior to Tony in this regard, and suitable publicity material, the Branch had stands at a variety of shows and at times fronted the national effort, such as at two Festivals of Food and Farming in Hyde Park. My memory of the second of these Festivals is of Schools Day, when what seemed like thousands of eager hands cleared our stand of anything free and moveable.

A special event was the biennial Butterfly Festival, founded by Harold Hughes in 1988 and, with the exception of one occasion in Letchworth, held at Juniper Hall in Mickleham. Tony's contribution to these Festivals, working with Bryan Ceney, was the sourcing, hanging and selling of butterfly artworks – think Richard Lewington, Richard Tratt, etc. On one occasion Tony took the security risk so seriously that he slept with the exhibits.

From 1986 Tony managed BC's stand at





*Tony Hoare at the Natural History Museum with Morpho rhetenor, a Nymphalid from South America. Jan 2019. Clive Huggins*

the Chelsea Flower Show until there was sufficient paid staff to take over some of these duties (BC had no staff of any sort until 1992). There was also a stand at Hampton Court in 1993.

When Tony stepped down as London Chair in late 1993, plans were well underway to split the Branch into two: Surrey and Herts & Middlesex. Tony took his endeavours into the new Surrey branch, remaining in charge of the sales goods until 2001. Tony's efforts in ordering, storing, transporting, displaying, selling and clearing up the sales goods were immense.

In 1998 Tony realised a dream with a Chelsea gold medal for "The Quarryman's Garden", a project he funded and managed.

In 1996 the Hoares had moved from Kingston to Leatherhead, where a few acres allowed Gay to pursue her passion for

gardening and Tony to create a meadow, in which the Quarryman's Hut from Chelsea was installed after the 1998 Show. The Branch had several visits to Seven Gables.

By 1994 Tony was attending the first biennial meeting of the North American Butterfly Association (NABA), and in 1995 made his first visit to the Monarchs' overwintering site at Angangueo in Mexico. I joined Tony for a group visit in 1997. Walking through the forest among millions of Monarchs was fabulous.

In the last 20 years after stepping down at the bank, Tony travelled widely. He had a bad experience in Venezuela, where the group was robbed at gunpoint. Bleeding from a head wound, Tony led the group to the local police station, where they were received sympathetically even though the police were on strike at the time.



## ● *TONY HOARE continued*

Tony was modest about the quality of his photos from these trips. His phenomenal library of slides was well catalogued (later digitised) and he was always willing to lend them if I was giving a talk myself.

Tony developed his interest in moths and trapping in his garden became a regular feature, especially during lockdown.

For the National Moth Atlas, Tony sponsored the Light Orange Underwing, found at the Oaken Wood Reserve, in memory of his friend and former BC Chairman, Stephen Jeffcoate, who managed that reserve in the 1990s.

From 2002 Tony volunteered weekly at the Natural History Museum, cataloguing their vast Lepidoptera collection. He also assisted a couple of local charities as Treasurer or Examiner of Accounts.



*Tony Hoare, 1992  
Butterfly Festival*

My overall thoughts from 45 years of observing Tony's love of butterflies and moths, and his "career" with BC: he was generous with his time and very generous with his financial support – he was one of BC's first Life Benefactors in 1995.

Tony, then, was not into grandstanding, but his contributions were definitely grand.

I end with a personal story. Tony was an accountant and I am an actuary, two professions whose members often tease about the dullness of the other. When Tony discovered that I was an actuary his reaction was: "I didn't know you were an actuary – I always thought you were a normal human being!" He was a lovely man.

■ Additional contributions:  
David Dunbar, Gail Jeffcoate,  
Liz & Mike Weller

## More memories

**Gail Jeffcoate**, *member of Surrey Branch launch committee in 1995*

Qualities that stand out for me when I think of Tony are his kindness, thoughtfulness and sheer sense of fun.

To illustrate these, in 2017 I was invited to the opening of the BC reserve at Westbury Beacon in the Mendips, near my childhood home, but I was booked to go on holiday in Cumbria that day. Tony made sure I could do both. We left Dorking at 6am, stopped for breakfast in a cafe Tony knew on the way, and had a great time at the reserve opening. Tony then drove me to Bristol in time for my train to Lancaster.

Tony and Gay's golden wedding anniversary party was a joyous occasion attended by many butterfly friends; and in summer 2020 I spent a lovely afternoon in their garden, recently colonised by Small Blues.

**Dr Blanca Huertas**

*NHM senior curator of Butterflies*

Tony was a valued museum member from 2002, and also a patron.

From 2005 he helped re-curate over 78,000 Metalmarks, a five-year project that earned him a prestigious London Volunteers Awards in 2011.

Tony's last project was the re-curation of the Colias butterflies. It was only a few days from being completed when the pandemic closed the museum's doors. We will be forever grateful for Tony's legacy.

**Mavis Peart**

*Chair, Friends of Juniper Hall*

Tony was a popular member, taking on the chairmanship for a few years, but it is as one of our excellent speakers that we shall particularly remember him. Tony turned holidays in distant lands into wonderfully illustrated butterfly talks.

## Field trips

Mike Weller

THE weather having promised much in early March turned cold in April – frost more often than not in my garden, followed by a slow warming in May. This led to a late emergence for butterflies (and some field trippers!) and meant that some of our early FTs were too early for easy sightings.

Some FTs were rescheduled but nearly half the programme was affected by wet or dull days. We still had many enjoyable walks: here are the highlights from the 29 I attended:



*White Argus, Aug 22. FK*

**May 12** Hutchinson's Bank & Chapel Bank (13 species): 5 Duke of Burgundy, incl. mating pair.

**May 25** Chiddingfold Forest (7): 26 Wood White amazingly appeared within seconds of the sun coming out.

**May 30** Denbies Hillside (17): 15 Small Copper, 27 Common & 9 Adonis Blue, 28 Small Heath, 14 Dingy & 4 Grizzled Skippers, 4 Green Hairstreak, 11 Brimstone & 1 Painted Lady.

**Jun 2** Merrow & Pewley Downs (11): 2 Adonis – 1st record here since 2015-09.

**Jun 5** Howell Hill (8): 26 Small Blue.

**Jun 15** Epsom Common (8): 31 Black Hairstreak.

**Jun 15** Fairmile Common (4): 10 Silver-studded Blue.

**Jun 27** Bookham Common (4): 14 White Admiral, 1 Purple Hairstreak.

**Jun 29** Norbury Park (12): 7 Dark Green & 1 Silver-washed Fritillaries.

**Jul 17** Headley Heath (18): 1 Silver-spotted Skipper, 3 White Admiral, 8 Silver-washed & 3 Dark Green Fritillaries.

**Jul 22** Great Train East (23): 17 Dark Green & 7 Silver-washed

Fritillaries, 2 Silver-spotted Skipper, 5 Chalkhill Blue, 1 Clouded Yellow.

**Jul 24** Vale End (17), plus hostess Daphne's curried egg sandwiches & glorious cakes!

**Jul 29** Reigate & Colley Hills (22): 16 Red Admiral, 16 Peacock.

**Jul 31** Great Train West (23): 20+ Chalkhill Blue, 12 Red Admiral, 7 Peacock, 10 Silver-washed & 2 Dark Green Fritillaries, 4 Painted Lady.

**Aug 10** Denbies Hillside (23): uncountable Chalkhill Blue (estimated total for whole area 10,000-100,000), only 1 Silver-spotted Skipper & Adonis Blue, 1 Small Tortoiseshell & 1 Clouded Yellow.

**Aug 12** Bookham Common (10): cloudy conditions but 1 male Brown Hairstreak on bramble flower in 2 minutes of sun!

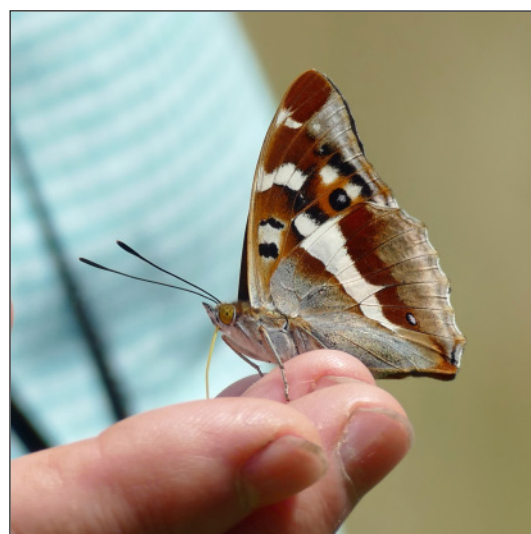
**Aug 22** Merrow & Pewley Downs (14): 6 Brown Hairstreak, aberrant Brown Argus (ab. *gracili*) with white spots replacing the usual red ones. No Small or Adonis Blue after thorough search.

■ I thank all our leaders. If you would like to show us your favourite patch or lead one of our regular FTs next year, please contact Mike Weller by Dec 31.



## Emperor whisperer

Nigel Jackman



*Whisper it: Nigel Jackman rescues Purple Emperor from oncoming lorry. Helen Kelly*

WE field-trippers to Broadstreet Common, near Guildford, on July 14 were already in self-congratulatory mood, having just found a White-letter Hairstreak, when a fresh male Purple Emperor glided into our presence. It circled several times before settling on the track, shimmering in the sun for us all to admire.

Suddenly a butterfly-busting tanker came trundling along the track, threatening to run over our oblivious friend. Urgently I crouched down and attempted to persuade the butterfly to move out of harm's way.

In desperation I flung up an arm, commanding the driver to stop. I then tempted the Purple Emperor onto a finger and we moved to safety, where it contentedly investigated every pore with its extended proboscis.

Everyone crowded round with a paparazzi-like clicking of camera shutters, and the phrase "Emperor whisperer" was heard more than once.

I returned the butterfly to the ground, where it posed for one last time. Then it took the next flight of its all-too-short life, which I like to think I had helped to extend. A magical encounter.

■ July 17: I was sitting in my wheelchair at a shady spot on Hogsmill Local Nature Reserve when a Purple Emperor flew within two metres of me and my wife Bridget, *writes Lawrie de Whalley*

It then soared up into an Oak before returning to the sunny area just in front of me: TQ206666, near Malden Manor station. I have records for the Hogsmill site going back to 1966, so this is most exciting.



## Black Hairstreak

Gareth Tilley

MY first adult Black Hairstreak at Epsom Common this year did not emerge until June 10. I had located a caterpillar (right) on May 23, which I monitored daily. It pupated on May 27, and 14 days later the adult butterfly posed next to its pupal case (camouflaged as bird-dropping) before taking its first flight.

Following my discovery of a Black Hairstreak on Great Pasture in May 2020, research into all five Hairstreaks was instigated this year across Epsom and Ashted Commons, involving Butterfly Conservation, Epsom and Ewell Borough Council, City of London and University of Sussex. We focused on the geographic area of the colony and key locations for conservation.

The monitoring had two stages: firstly, a survey of Blackthorn (larval host plant) in spring when the tree was in bloom; this information was then used to design four survey routes with specific points for timed counts during the short flight season.

We confirmed that the butterfly is present across both Epsom and Ashted Commons in good numbers. Black Hairstreaks were also found on nearby Horton Country Park. This indicates that as a minimum the colony is located over a 2 x 2.5 mile area. The aim is to repeat the survey next year, to include Horton CP and adjoining sites with suitable habitat.

■ Assisting me in the surveys were Nicola Campana-Etheridge, Helen Cocker, Stewart Cocker, Alison Gilry, Pamela Harwood, Steve Nevard, Simon Saville, Peter Vigar and Bob Yeo.

I also thank Sarah Clift, Peter Howarth, Zuza Featherstone and Dr Alan Stewart for their support.



See *Surrey Skipper* 70 & 71 for more details of Epsom's Black Hairstreaks.

**YouTube link** [Gareth Tilley's talk](#)

## Transects

Bill Downey

THE disruption from the pandemic has continued this year but the good news is that the core of our transect network has held firm. By mid-September there have been returns from 110 transects, recording 147,000 butterflies. This compares to 120 routes and 230,000 butterflies in 2019.

It was always the case that the pandemic would cause some people to re-evaluate their lives. There have been more retirees this year, some have moved away (more are moving away this winter) and some have lost their jobs. It will require considerable legwork to fill these gaps.

I normally sort out any new routes or changes during January to March – before monitoring starts – but this was not possible in 2021 due to lockdown. However, there were still four new transects and one re-instatement.

**Ham Lands North**, in LB Richmond, is an addition to the Ham Lands South transect. There is an active Friends group.

**Sidney Wood & Park Copse** has long been a target of mine. This is adjacent to the Chiddingfold Forest complex and allows us to extend our monitoring of the Wood White. The population at Sidney Wood is tiny compared to Chiddingfold but there is every chance upcoming Forestry Commission work may improve the habitat. And excitingly, Wood White has been found for the first time this year at Park Copse.

**Sanderstead to Whyteleafe**, part of the South London Downs NNR, is next to Riddlesdown Common, where there is also a transect. It is an old medieval field system with ancient hedgerows and meadows.

### New transects in 2021

<b>Beddington Farmlands</b>	Charlie Owens
<b>Chobham Grazing South</b>	Steve Harley
<b>Ham Lands North</b>	Paul Cook
<b>Sanderstead to Whyteleafe Conservation Area</b>	Mick Rowland
<b>Sidney Wood &amp; Park Copse</b>	Tom Parker

### New walkers in 2021

<b>Brockwell Park</b>	Helen Firminger
<b>London Wetland Centre</b>	Adam Salmon & Nick Oliver
<b>The Mount, Guildford</b>	David Lampf
<b>Newlands Corner</b> (East & West)	David Lonsdale & Nicola Sainsbury
<b>Nonsuch Park</b>	Phil Kirk
<b>Sheepheas</b>	Ros Szanto
<b>Sydenham Hill Woods</b>	Sam Taylor
<b>Tooting Common</b>	Molly Crookshank

### Retired

<b>Michael Jones</b>	Betchworth Quarry
<b>Richard Bullock</b>	London Wetland Centre
<b>Ellie Stradling</b>	Newlands Corner
<b>Richard Burgess</b>	Farnham Park
<b>Lindsay Patterson</b>	Tice's Meadow
<b>June Wakefield &amp; Brian Thomas</b>	Nore Hill
<b>Jacky Trinder</b>	Smithwood Common
<b>Matt Bramich</b>	Swan Barn Farm

**Beddington Farmlands**, a huge area of landfill in Sutton, is being turned into a nature reserve. It will become one of the most important sites in London for numbers of butterflies, if not number of species. It lies between Beddington Park and Mitcham Common in the Wandle Valley and is an important wildlife corridor into London from the south.

● *continued next page*

I thank all transect and WCBS walkers for their continued enthusiasm and resilience, especially those who have retired this year. Gaps will need to be filled for next year, in particular around Farnham and Caterham.

So if you are interested in walking a route, or helping with work parties, please contact [billdowney@sky.com](mailto:billdowney@sky.com)

**Cobham Grazing South** was set up by a former SWT Ranger around five years ago but walked on only a few occasions. The arrival of a new walker meant that it was possible to re-instate the route. There are now three routes on Cobham Common, all recording Silver-studded Blue and Grayling.

■ In London the Great North Wood project came to an end (although I hear there is now a further tranche of funding) so it was necessary to take the transects there back in house. I visited three sites in April to hold training sessions with the continuing or new walkers:

**Sydenham Hill Woods:** Sam Taylor

**One Tree Hill:** Ruth Bradshaw, Sandy Pepperell, Kate Lake, Pennie Hedge, Hannah Fox

**Streatham Common:** Jon Baker, Peter Newmark, Anna Guerin

■ This year I received a trial methodology for the monitoring of Purple Hairstreaks: a short transect along lines of oaks, counting butterflies in the canopy and walked between 6pm to 8pm.

Six experimental routes were set up and feedback on the methodology has been requested. If this goes ahead next year I will be looking to roll this out to more sites.

## Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey

Bill Downey

<i>Monad</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Walker</i>	<i>Monad</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Walker</i>
<b>SU8736</b>	Hindhead	<i>Lesley Benson</i>	<b>TQ1662</b>	Chessington	<i>Pamela Harwood</i>
<b>SU8737</b>	Beacon Hill		<b>TQ2042</b>	Newdigate	<i>Jo Hurren</i>
<b>SU8748</b>	Badshot Lea		<b>TQ2059</b>	Epsom	<i>Janet Cheney</i>
<b>SU8960</b>	Camberley		<b>TQ2355</b>	Tadworth	<i>Nicola Sainsbury</i>
<b>SU9038</b>	Thursley	<i>Harry Clarke</i>	<b>TQ2562</b>	Belmont	<i>Morag Loader</i>
<b>SU9047</b>	Seale		<b>TQ2654</b>	Mugswell	<i>Janet Cheney</i>
<b>SU9133</b>	Haslemere		<b>TQ2657</b>	Banstead Woods	<i>Alison Gilry</i>
<b>SU9150</b>	Ash Green	<i>Steve Marshall</i>	<b>TQ2759</b>	Woodmansterne	<i>Morag Loader</i>
<b>SU9351</b>	Normandy	<i>Steve Marshall</i>	<b>TQ2868</b>	Mitcham	
<b>SU9364</b>	Windlesham		<b>TQ3045</b>	Salfords	<i>Lucy Halahan</i>
<b>SU9647</b>	Compton	<i>Gill Hanson</i>	<b>TQ3069</b>	Norbury	
<b>SU9760</b>	Chobham (not viable)		<b>TQ3079</b>	Westminster	<i>Danielle Wagner</i>
<b>SU9863</b>	Chobham Common	<i>Paul Wheeler</i>	<b>TQ3269</b>	Upper Norwood	<i>Mike Pearce</i>
<b>SU9951</b>	Guildford		<b>TQ3279</b>	Borough	<i>Janet Cheney</i>
<b>TQ0071</b>	Runnymede (not viable)		<b>TQ3354</b>	South Caterham	
<b>TQ0543</b>	Winterfold		<b>TQ3377</b>	Southwark	
<b>TQ0944</b>	Peaslake	<i>Keith Lelliott</i>	<b>TQ3378</b>	Bermondsey	<i>Simon Saville</i>
<b>TQ0960</b>	Cobham	<i>Roz Szanto</i>	<b>TQ3559</b>	Hamsey Green	<i>David Gough</i>
<b>TQ1144</b>	Holmbury St Mary	<i>Bill Downey</i>	<b>TQ3566</b>	Shirley	<i>Malcolm Bridge</i>
<b>TQ1247</b>	Wotton	<i>Graham Revill</i>	<b>TQ4352</b>	Limpsfield Chart	<i>Jim Yeeles</i>
<b>TQ1354</b>	Great Bookham	<i>Harry Clarke</i>			

WCBS monitors butterfly abundance in the wider countryside in fixed randomly-chosen monads away from hot-spots. Surrey has 41.

The survey requires one 2km walk in each of the four months, May-August. It is ideal

for recorders unable to commit to a weekly transect. If you would like to volunteer for one of the vacant monads, please contact *Bill Downey*

■ You may also be interested in:

[www.gardenbutterflysurvey.org](http://www.gardenbutterflysurvey.org)



## Comments from transect walkers

**Peter Trew** It has been a most frustrating year, trying to plan the transect walk within the weekly weather forecasts and accommodating post-lockdown activities after all the restrictions. Rapidly moving weather fronts meant that anticipated good days towards the end of a week suddenly disappeared, leaving cool and windy days. Even on a sunny day, after five days of sunless cool or rain the count is severely reduced.

**Sonya Miller-Smith** I would like to apply for the “most attempts at a transect in a week” award, after getting to Whistler’s Steep (<10 mins away) no fewer than five times in a six-day period, and still failing to do a count due to weather changes.

**Nicola Sainsbury** My highlight was the sheer numbers of Marbled Whites and then Chalkhill Blues at Newlands Corner. Every step you took, a cloud of butterflies flew up. Walking my transect is a joyful experience, even if it is sometimes a challenge to fit it into my schedule, and to dodge rain and the dreaded cloudy days. In troubled times, the walks bring comfort and solace.

**David Moss** Numbers have been generally disappointing, notably Gatekeepers. Also no adult Cinnabars seen and few of their caterpillars on the ragwort, which has had a good year. However, excellent numbers of Silver-studded Blues and Graylings on the Chobham Common NE transect. Both back to levels last seen about

10 years ago. The SSBs have responded to the firebreak management that has created more young heather.

**John Tallon** My impression is that the early-flying species were affected by the cold and wet start to the season. Some commoner species from later in the year, specifically Meadow Brown and Gatekeeper, also seem to have been less numerous. The heathland specialties at Hankley both had good seasons. SSB numbers were 124 compared to 102, 70 and 104 in the previous three years, and the peak period (with 20+ records per week) covered four weeks, longer and later than previously. Grayling are also doing well this year with 47 records so far, compared to 37, 12 and 39 in the previous years.

**Ian Cunningham** Marbled Whites appeared in numbers on Wandsworth Common for the first time in 2019, but vanished in 2020 due (I suspect) to the dry conditions. They reappeared in 2021, though mostly off transect. The transect did produce one pristine example (nectaring on red clover), suggesting they are breeding.

**Karen Goldie-Morrison** The cold and wet weather kept people away and allowed the regeneration of the acid grassland on Barnes Common, which was seriously trampled in 2020 – probably politically incorrect to say this, but true. The blackthorn is doing well and we could try for a Hairstreak egg count this year.

### Walking a transect

A TRANSECT is a fixed-route, weekly walk, typically 1–3km, lasting 30–90 mins.

Volunteers record butterflies in a 5m band in suitable weather in the 26 weeks Apr–Sep, 10.45–15.45. Data is managed by the [UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme](#)

Surrey transect data (spreadsheets) is on our website’s *Transects page*:

- Sort by species to see their sites & flight periods.
- Sort by sites to see their species.
- Transect walkers: sort by walker to see your own records at a glance. If you would like to walk a transect or help with an existing one (many are shared), please *email Bill Downey*

## Conservation & Recording

**Bill Downey**

THE Small Blue did not have a great year, which was probably impacted by poor weather during the peak flight period in early June. This was disappointing after the colonisation of new sites in 2020, however the species was seen for the first time at Hackhurst Down.

Seeding of Kidney Vetch will continue this autumn and winter. It can take a number of years to spread, but appeared to be doing well at many sites.

Having no land of our own, our Conservation Group must liaise with landowners to carry out work. The pandemic has caused major disruption, with staff changes at the National Trust, Surrey Wildlife Trust and Surrey County Council. This will take time to settle down.

At Oaken Wood, responsibility has passed to Steve Wheatley. Fiona Haynes has left and Paul Cawsey is the new Wood White Project Officer.

Work parties resumed in October: three with the National Trust at Denbies Hillside, dovetailing with the monthly events at



Oaken Wood. After the hiatus, they will take time to build up again and we would love more members to join us.

■ A Conservation and Recording sub-committee has been set up – the two activities need to inform each other. This comprises Bill Downey (chair), Simon Saville, Gail Jeffcoate, Simon Riley, Pamela Harwood, Ken Elsom

and Steve Wheatley.

The aim is to maintain an overview across our entire branch area – SW London as well as Surrey – on matters relating to conservation. We will regularly review the progress of the Regional Action Plan.

We are also aware that the provision of mapping and graphs – both of butterfly distribution and abundance for VC17 – needs to improve. Since such a lot of effort goes in to generating butterfly records, we clearly need to make better use of them.

■ To receive information on work parties and other conservation events, please subscribe to our mailing list:

**LINK** <http://eepurl.com/ds7MaP>

## Oaken Wood

**OAKEN WOOD**, founded by FC senior ranger Peter Beale in 1993, and our Branch reserve since 1995, is 12ha (30 acres) of wood/grassland in the south-west of Surrey, 2.6km south of Dunsfold. It is part of Forestry Commission's 324ha Chiddingfold Forest.

A 3ha extension west to Lagfold track was added in 2015. Our licence was renewed for five years in Jan 2018.

**Access:** SU993338, via track (usually no vehicular access) that runs west from Plaistow Rd at SU994338; GU8 4PG. Parking for only a few cars.

Western (Botany Bay) entrance to Chiddingfold Forest is off High Street Green at SU978348; GU8 4YA. Parking here is slightly easier; beware roadside ditches! Oaken Wood is 2.5km to the east.

● Volunteers are invited to our winter work parties. Please see website.

**LINK** [Oaken Wood](#)

**Work parties are tremendous fun: new volunteers always most welcome**

## 33 Butterflies Challenge

**Anna Guerin**

*London Wildlife Trust  
Nature Reserves Officer*

IN March I decided to embark on a personal quest to see a different butterfly species in each of London's 33 boroughs. I wanted to share my experiences of London's amazing green spaces and highlight their butterfly diversity.

We were then plunged into the coldest April since 1922 and the wettest May on record, but on September 7, after over five months of hot-footing across the capital, I was delighted to complete my 33 Butterflies Challenge. Here are some highlights.

■ **Hardest to find:** Purple Emperor  
*Putney Heath, Wandsworth*

His Imperial Majesty gave me the runaround but was absolutely worth the heart-stopping moment when I finally found him. I made a few unsuccessful trips to Hillingdon and Barnet. By then we were deep into Emperor season so I pinned my hopes on Putney Heath. After an hour of



pacing up and down paths, I had a magical encounter with a male as he probed the ground, sucking up salts, under a large beech.

■ **Most unexpected:**

Dingy Skipper

*Roundshaw Downs, Sutton*

A first-time visitor to Roundshaw Downs, I was blown away by how wild the space felt while backdropped by The Shard and Gherkin.

A sunny day in May yielded many species, including Green Hairstreak, Common Blue and Small Copper but the dowdiest individual proved to be the jewel in the crown – a Dingy Skipper. I had seen many of these muddy brown butterflies in Croydon and Bromley but was delighted to find one skipping about Roundshaw. I posted it online and discovered it was a first record for the borough!

■ **Last on the list:** Brown Hairstreak  
*Tolworth Court Farm Fields, Kingston*

I had to find a Brown Hairstreak in Kingston to complete the Challenge. I needed to make the most of any balmy

Borough	Butterfly
Barking & Dagenham	Green-veined white
Barnet	Ringlet
Bexley	Brown Argus
Brent	Comma
Bromley	Adonis Blue
Camden	Meadow Brown
City	Peacock
City of Westminster	Small White
Croydon	Glanville Fritillary
Ealing	WL Hairstreak
Enfield	Purple Hairstreak
Greenwich	Gatekeeper
Hackney	Small Skipper
Hammersmith & Fulham	Red Admiral
Haringey	Speckled Wood
Harrow	Marbled White

Havering	Orange-tip
Hillingdon	White Admiral
Hounslow	Painted Lady
Islington	Holly Blue
Kensington & Chelsea	Large White
Kingston Upon Thames	Brown Hairstreak
Lambeth	Brimstone
Lewisham	Common Blue
Merton	Clouded Yellow
Newham	Small Copper
Redbridge	Small Heath
Richmond Upon Thames	Green Hairstreak
Southwark	Large Skipper
Sutton	Dingy Skipper
Tower Hamlets	Essex Skipper
Waltham Forest	Small Tortoiseshell
Wandsworth	Purple Emperor





*Brown Hairstreak, Tolworth Court Farm; and Purple Emperor, Putney Heath. AG*

days to catch a glimpse of these sun-worshippers so when the opportunity came, I hared down the A3 to an area of blackthorn where lots of BH eggs had been found the previous winter.

I arrived in time for the fields to be bathed in late afternoon sunshine. After an hour of patrolling the hedgerow like a caged animal, I finally got the golden glimmer I was hoping for and I am not ashamed to admit that I shed a few tears of joy.

■ I saw 38 species in total. Chalkhill Blue, Grizzled Skipper, Dark Green Fritillary, Small Blue and Silver-washed Fritillary did not make the final 33 as they were seen in boroughs that were already ticked off.

■ Read more about my butterfly adventures at [www.33butterflies.blog](http://www.33butterflies.blog). I will be adding to it in the coming months.

■ Anna will talk about her 33 Butterflies Challenge on Zoom on Nov 23.

## Book review Nigel Jackman

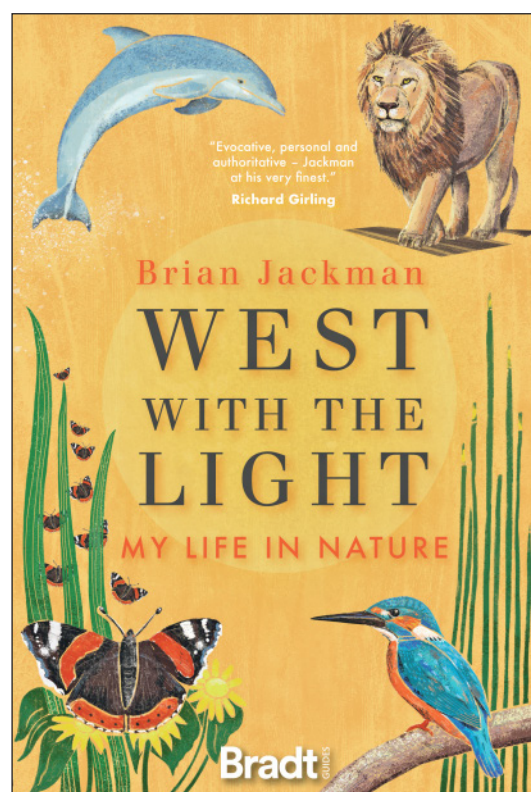
MY brother Brian Jackman and I are both members of Butterfly Conservation, but whereas I am a mere enthusiast, he has a lifetime's knowledge and experience of butterflies, moths and the much wider natural world.

A travel writer, journalist and author, particularly of his big-game experiences in East Africa, Brian has written his autobiography: *West with the Light: My Life in Nature*

In it he recalls his magical experiences of wildlife and special places both home and abroad, and much more besides.

It is no coincidence that a butterfly is included on the cover of the book as Brian's enthusiasm for butterflies dates back to his boyhood days in Nonsuch Park, Surrey where he recalls an encounter with a Monarch in the 1940s.

Other references serve as further reminders of his interest in lepidoptera, which still extends to firing up the moth trap in his Dorset garden.



**LINK** [NHBS](#), July 2021  
£9.99 paperback, 269 pages



iRecord is our recommended recording platform, via their website or *iRecord Butterflies* app.

Records sent to iRecord, plus those sent to BC's own recording portal at [www.butterflyrecording.org](http://www.butterflyrecording.org), are all viewable at [www.brc.ac.uk/irecord](http://www.brc.ac.uk/irecord)

■ Thank you to the 550 recorders who have submitted nearly 10k Surrey butterfly records to iRecord in this year up to Sep 23.

■ More details, including how to create filters, are on our website's Recording page.

■ Our website's Sightings page is for first/notable records.

	<i>iRecorders</i>	<i>iRecords</i>
<b>2013</b>	32	344
<b>2014</b>	116	1,004
<b>2015</b>	159	3,182
<b>2016</b>	230	4,247
<b>2017</b>	333	7,214
<b>2018</b>	322	6,434
<b>2019</b>	443	6,534
<b>2020</b>	580	10,977
<b>2021</b>	550	9,811

[LINK](#) [iRecord](#)

[LINK](#) [iRecord Butterflies app](#)

[LINK](#) [Surrey Recording](#)

### Unusual records confirmed by photos

Date	Species	Site	Source
May 12-29	<b>Large Tortoiseshell</b>	Hutchinson's Bank	Liz Burgess Anand Ramesh
	<i>Same individual, photographed May 12, 27 &amp; 29. The species is returning to England.</i>		
May 12	<b>Duke of Burgundy</b>	Chapel Bank	Branch field trip
	<i>Mating pair shows unauthorised release is surviving.</i>		
May 30	<b>Marsh Fritillary</b>	Hutchinson's Bank	Martin Wills
	<i>Presumed offspring from 2020 unauthorised release.</i>		
Jul 30	<b>Swallowtail</b>	Copthorne garden buddleia	Roger Tester
	<i>Continental migrant (if not a release). West Sussex, but in VC17 (like Gatwick).</i>		
Sep 5	<b>Long-tailed Blue</b> male	Muslim Peace Garden, Woking	Philip Osso
Sep 18	<b>Long-tailed Blue</b> fem	Croham Hurst, Croydon	Stephan Morris
Oct 6	<b>White Admiral</b>	Chilworth	John Austin
	<i>Rare 2nd brood, very late example</i>		
	<b>Adonis Blue</b>		
Jun	Recorded in the west at Pewley Down for the 1st time since 2015.		
Aug-Sep	Rare records from Albury Downs at Newlands Corner. Most easterly North Downs record: Wingate Hill.		



## Butterfly Mural

Malcolm Bridge

A butterfly mural was the highlight of the centenary celebrations of Addiscombe, Woodside and Shirley allotments in South Croydon.

The mural, painted by plot-holder Alan Jenkins on the site hall, was unveiled by Simon Saville on August Bank Holiday Monday.

It features most of the 25 butterfly species recorded in the 10 years of the site's wildlife meadow, notably Brown and Green Hairstreaks, Brown Argus, Chalkhill Blue, plus the colourful Jersey Tiger moth.

Simon found six BH eggs in a couple of minutes searching the meadow. A walk around the 400 plots confirmed the dynamic habitats provided for wildlife.

AWS allotments have recently been recognised by LB Croydon as a Site of Nature Conservation Interest. Its array of butterflies and moths are a significant part of this prized designation.



Simon Saville (left) unveils Alan Jenkins' mural. MB

## While away the winter with . . .

***An essential reference for anyone with any interest in Surrey's wildlife. And at only £16 it is an absolute bargain.***

**Steve Chastell, Chair  
Surrey Bird Club**

### *Butterflies of Surrey* Revisited



**Fewer than 50 copies left**

Ken Willmott  
George, Harry E. Clarke, Francis Kelly  
Members of Butterfly Conservation Surrey branch

**£16 (+ £3 p & p) from [surreywildlifetrust.org/shop](http://surreywildlifetrust.org/shop)**



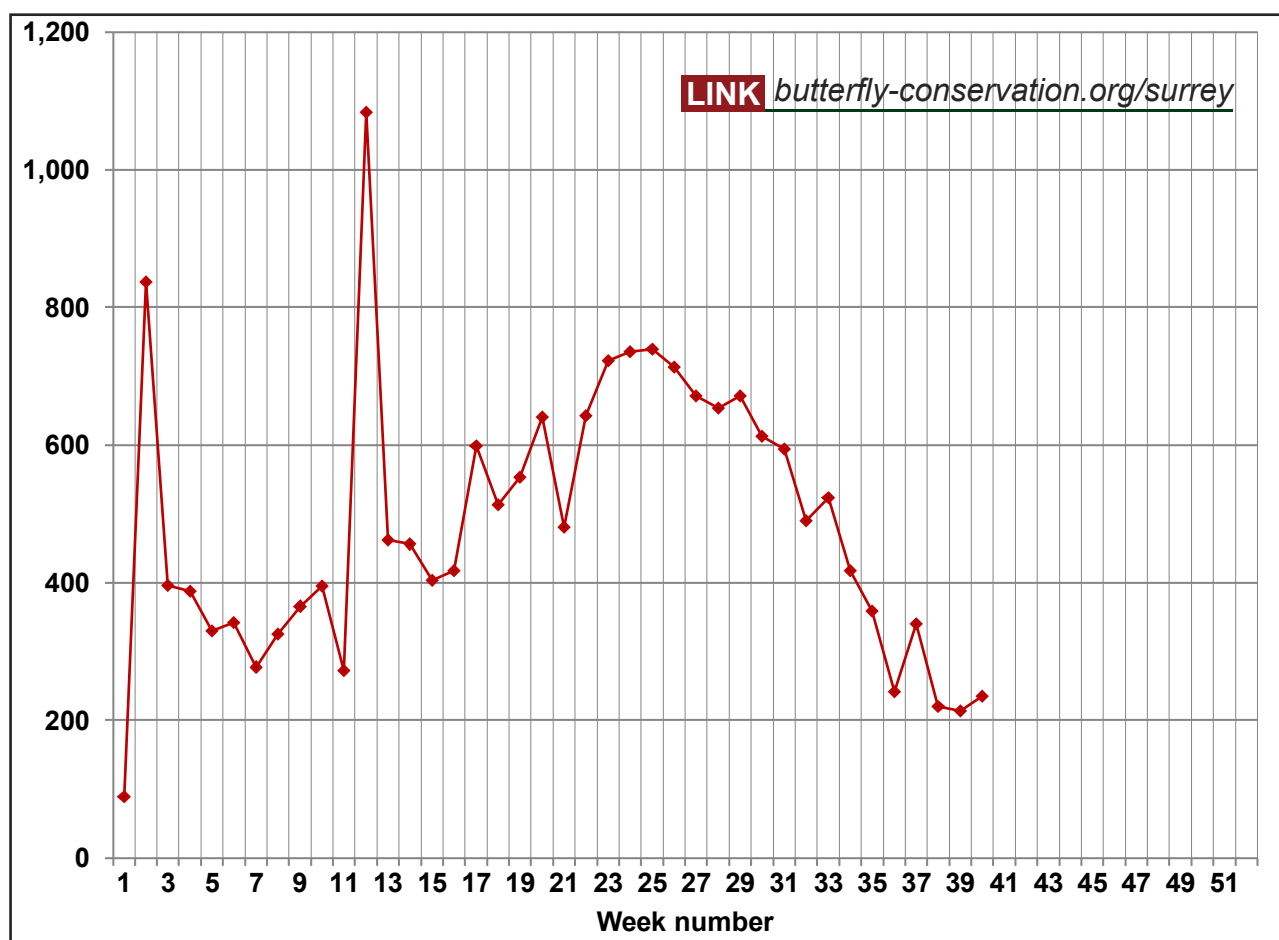
## Branch website

Francis Kelly

VISITORS to our Branch website spiked in January with the announcement of our Zoom talks, and peaked in March for the publication of the Spring Skipper.

The summer peak was 739 during week ending June 20.

■ Chart shows total unique visits to each of our website's 20 pages up to Oct 3.



## Social Media

OUR social media accounts are listed on page 2. Facebook is ideal for photos, Twitter for news.

We recommend [alerts.talkwalker.com](https://alerts.talkwalker.com) to see Twitter mentions of @BC\_Surrey

**LINK** [Surrey Branch social media](#)

Twitter		Facebook		
@BC_Surrey		Butterfly Conservation in Surrey Branch page	Surrey Butterflies Mick Rock's group	
Follow		Like	Follow	Members
2020-09	1,268	512	557	248
2021-03	1,287	762	822	254
2021-10	1,383	1,146	1,276	300



## UKBMS 2020

Francis Kelly

LAST year (2020) was the third consecutive good season for butterflies. At UK level, 31 species were recorded in above average numbers, while 27 species fared worse than their long-term average.

None of the 58 species had their best year on record; equally none had their worst.

However, some habitat specialists have not recovered to the higher numbers that were typically found in the early 1970s,

while some wider countryside species are also in long-term decline.

Of Surrey's regular species, 34 show a positive 10-year trend. The butterflies that have fared worst are Adonis and Chalkhill Blues, Grizzled Skipper and Grayling.

■ Covid restrictions resulted in less data than in 2019.

[LINK](#) UK Butterfly Monitoring scheme

2020's abundance ranking in the 45 years of transects 1976-2020					
10-year trend			10-year trend		
2	Dark Green Fritillary	+11%	17	Wood White	+117%
3	Silver-spotted Skipper	+44%		Purple Emperor	+33%
4	Silver-studded Blue	+111%	18	Grizzled Skipper	-37%
5	Marbled White	+93%	21	Ringlet	+20%
6	Orange-tip	+25%		Comma	+26%
	Brimstone	+91%	22	Small Copper	+40%
8	Dingy Skipper	-10%		White-letter Hairstreak	+110%
	Peacock	+30%	25	Large Skipper	+8%
9	Silver-washed Fritillary	+47%		Green-veined White	-1%
	Purple Hairstreak	+137%	27	Brown Argus	+95%
10	Meadow Brown	+38%	28	Speckled Wood	+7%
	Red Admiral	+47%	30	Essex Skipper	+52%
	Holly Blue	+174%		Gatekeeper	+42%
11	Small White	+94%		Small Tortoiseshell	-16%
12	Small Blue	+53%		Adonis Blue	-53%
13	Large White	+66%	32	White Admiral	+12%
	Clouded Yellow	+225%	33	Grayling	-34%
15	Small Heath	+40%	34	Common Blue	+46%
	Brown Hairstreak	+84%	35	Small Skipper	+18%
	Chalkhill Blue	-49%	37	Painted Lady	+535%
16	Green Hairstreak	+68%			
How to read the table: Surrey's 41 regular species; data is from all transects in England, 1976-2020. Dark Green Fritillary: 2020 was 2nd-best of the 45 transect years; Painted Lady: 37th-best year.					

## Brown Hairstreak bonanza

Stephen Reisbach

HAVING seen seven female Brown Hairstreaks at Tolworth Court Farm Fields on Sep 20 last year, Marian Thomas and I fared even better at the same site on Sep 21

this year with 16. The butterflies were spread over the site, but the greatest concentration was probably at grid reference TQ199649.

## Weather Watch

DAVID GRADIDGE

IT has been difficult to make sense of the last six months. If you could, you should have taken a holiday in Scotland and avoided our part of the world.

The anomaly maps have consistently shown the South East being different from the rest of the UK.

Apart from a sunny (but cold) April, spring was nothing exceptional. The Summer could be said to be best forgotten with August being the 6th dullest in 100 years. 2008, 2010 & 2015 were almost as bad.

Excessive rainfall fell in Summer, but first some interesting facts regarding April. In the last 12 years, the odd years averaged 19mm. Bar one they were dry. The even years averaged 68 mm and bar one they were wet. So here is my forecast for 2022: the reason could be the NAO – the North Atlantic Oscillation, a seldom reported event that every other year affects pressure patterns.

In Banstead on July 12 we had the most severe deluge since August 13, 2006. It was very localised so although there was severe flooding in SW London, many missed it.

The data for the summer in SE England shows that both June and July were wetter than average. However the anomaly maps clearly show Surrey to be much wetter – perhaps twice the average in places,

Just to show how odd things can get, April was colder than March. It has happened many times before but is still rare. April was in fact the coldest since 1986 and May the coldest since 1996. The

### England SE & Central South

Surrey, London, Berks, Hants, Kent, Sussex, Wilts

*Anomaly columns shows comparison with 30-year average, 1981-2010*

**Yellow:** warm/sunny; **Blue:** wet

**Red:** year's warmest/sunniest; **Black:** wettest

	Temp C		Sunshine		Rainfall	
	Mean	Anom	Hours	Anom	mm	Anom
<b>2020</b>						
<b>Jan</b>	6.5	+1.9	56	95%	71	88%
<b>Feb</b>	7.0	+2.5	77	97%	130	235%
<b>Mar</b>	7.0	+0.2	173	151%	50	87%
<b>Apr</b>	10.9	+2.2	257	152%	48	111%
<b>May</b>	13.1	+1.1	335	166%	5	9%
<b>Jun</b>	15.8	+1.0	221	109%	51	100%
<b>Jul</b>	16.7	-0.4	210	98%	37	72%
<b>Aug</b>	18.9	+1.9	187	92%	76	132%
<b>Sep</b>	15.1	+0.6	177	118%	32	51%
<b>Oct</b>	11.1	+0.0	69	61%	174	186%
<b>Nov</b>	9.1	+1.7	60	84%	62	71%
<b>Dec</b>	5.5	+0.5	49	95%	117	138%
<b>Annual</b>	11.4	+1.1	1,870	115%	852	108%
	Temp C		Sunshine		Rainfall	
	Mean	Anom	Hours	Anom	mm	Anom
<b>2021</b>						
<b>Jan</b>	3.7	-0.9	35	60%	103	129%
<b>Feb</b>	5.3	+0.8	69	87%	51	92%
<b>Mar</b>	7.1	+0.3	119	104%	36	63%
<b>Apr</b>	6.6	-2.1	225	133%	10	23%
<b>May</b>	10.5	-1.5	167	83%	90	164%
<b>Jun</b>	16.1	+1.3	194	96%	88	171%
<b>Jul</b>	18.0	+0.9	206	96%	79	155%
<b>Aug</b>	16.3	-0.7	138	68%	52	90%

Summer was overall a little above average despite August being so gloomy and therefore on the cold side. By the time you read this, September may turn out to be warmer than August – very rare but it did happen in 2006.

So what of butterflies? On June 16, Banstead Downs had Small Blues by the 100s. Every patch of Kidney Vetch had them by the dozen.

Governments blame every unusual weather event on climate change rather than taking the blame for their negligence. By the way, Polar Bears are doing well.



## Moths

Les Evans-Hill

*Manager of BC's National Moth Recording Scheme database and Putney Heath resident*

LONDON Natural History Society's *Larger Moths of the London Area*, authored by Colin Plant, will be 30 years old in 2023.

The atlas included distribution maps for the 715 macro-moth species recorded in the London Area by the end of 1991.

Thirty years later there have been many changes. Animal communities are fluid by nature, but various reports have alerted us to massive declines in the populations of moths and many other invertebrates.

At the same time other species have expanded their distribution and, in some cases, become more numerous. Several species that were previously only immigrants are now breeding residents.

The *Larger Moths of the London Area* provides a baseline of moth data, against which comparisons can be made and changes detected. I will lead-author the new work, along with Colin Plant.

It will be more than an update. Technology now allows us to deal with data in different ways. We can, for example, select different background maps, not necessarily the same for every species, and



we can have more than one map per species if it helps to interpret the patterns of distribution. We can also analyse changes in populations and status and we create graphs or other visual aids to show changes in flight periods.

Most people who record moths already submit their records to the appropriate County Recorder. If you have a

backlog, please submit them to Graham Collins by the end of 2021.

■ In August 2020 I took the 3rd Surrey record of Jersey Mocha (*Cyclophora ruficiliaria*), which was presumably a migrant. Fast-forward to July 19, a female Jersey Mocha turned up, followed by further specimens at regular intervals – it has almost certainly colonised Putney Heath.

Recorders should note Jersey Mocha can be confused with 2nd-generation Clay Triple-lines (*C. linearia*) and care must be taken in distinguishing them (see below). Graham Collins will be interested in further sightings.

**LINK** [Surrey Branch Moths page](#)

**LINK** [Garden Moth scheme 2022](#)  
*Please register before March*



Jersey Mocha (left) & Clay Triple-lines



## Back-page Picture

Francis Kelly



*Adonis Blue female, Box Hill, September 1*