

Devon Branch

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Essex Skipper
Thymelicus lineola
Paul Butter

Newsletter



**Butterfly
Conservation**

Saving butterflies, moths and our environment

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Butterfly Conservation



**BUTTERFLY
CONSERVATION**

Devon Branch Newsletter

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Send articles and images to the Editor (contact details back of newsletter).

The Editor may correct errors in, adjust, or shorten articles if necessary, for the sake of accuracy, presentation and space available. Offerings may occasionally be held over for a later newsletter if space is short.

The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Editor or of Butterfly Conservation either locally or nationally.

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We are incredibly saddened by the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

An inspirational Monarch, Queen Elizabeth was known to enjoy spending time outside in the natural world, and spoke of the enthusiasm she saw for protecting the planet from the effects of climate change. In her address to the COP 26 summit in November 2021, the Queen said: “I have drawn great comfort and inspiration from the relentless enthusiasm of people of all ages, especially the young, in calling for everyone to play their part.”



Our thoughts are with the Royal Family at this sad time

The committee continues to work hard to keep you up to date with news, events and work parties. Our primary goals are; to help maintain and manage habitats; to increase the current numbers of butterflies and moths and to help recover threatened species; and to spread the word.

We would really appreciate your help, either by joining the committee, we have a number of roles that need filling, field events co-ordinator being one of them. Your help would very much be appreciated at work parties and field events where people power really is the order of the day. And by spreading the word, committee members regularly attend events over the year to offer advice, give practical support and to share knowledge and information, you can help us to achieve our goals.

If you would like more information on any of these matters, please ring or email the branch and we can help you find answers and point you in the right direction.

Contact details can be found on page 13, we are always pleased to hear from you.

Camberwell Beauty Sighting

In August an exciting and rare sighting of a Camberwell Beauty was recorded by Amy Macleod. This strong migrant butterfly, known as Mourning Cloak on the continent, was seen in Stoke Gabriel as Amy walked along the River Dart, in South Devon, with her family. The Camberwell Beauty is a large and distinctive butterfly that can be seen on the wing in the summer months. It can be found basking on the ground or on tree trunks on sunny days.

Another lucky spotter was the satirical war poet Siegfried Sassoon (1886-1967) who once found a butterfly trapped between his skylight and a piece of gauze that was put there to reduce the glare. He wrote:

By standing on a chair-which I placed on a table-I could just get my hand between the gauze and the glass. The butterfly was ungratefully elusive, and more than once the chair almost toppled over. Successful at last, I climbed down, and was just about to put the butterfly out of the window when I observed between my fingers that it wasn't the Small Tortoiseshell or Cabbage White that I had assumed it to be. Its dark wings had yellowish borders with blue spots on them. It was more than seven years since I had entomologically squeezed the thorax of a 'specimen'. Doing so now, I discovered that one of the loftiest ambitions from my childhood had been belatedly realised. I had caught a Camberwell Beauty.



Camberwell Beauty
Nymphalis Antiopa

Named after the inner London suburb where it was first discovered in 1748. Camberwell would have been a leafy rural village back then and being not far from the London Docks it was sometimes presumed that the butterflies were carried over to our shores as stowaways on Scandinavian timber ships. Whether this was a migrant, a stowaway or captive bred, we may never know.

Paignton Zoo has a new sculpture with a very important message!

Over the summer Paignton Zoo held a series of recycled art workshops as part of their Sustainable Summer. Lead by Amy McCarthy the aim was to create a sculpture with strong public participation. Following consultation Amy found the biggest form of waste created by visitors to the zoo was drinks cans. The drinks cans were collected from the zoos recycling bins, washed out and then die-cut into the shape of butterflies. Visitors to the zoo were then able to decorate the butterflies before adding them to the sculpture.

The concept behind the piece is firstly to educate on how important butterflies and moths are as pollinators and as part of the ecosystem. How they are very susceptible to climate change, loss of environment and of biodiversity in our landscapes. The second message is that of recycling. Drinks cans are 100% recyclable and so much better for the world than plastic bottles, which even when they are made with recycled plastic still have to have at least 30% new or virgin plastic added to the recycled plastic. Because of this the zoo have stopped selling drinks in plastic bottles and now only sell drinks in cans or reusable bottles.

Amy has been running TRAIL (Teignmouth Recycled Art In Landscape) for the last nine years. They run an annual environmental sculpture trail that along with a team of volunteers, make sculptures with schools and community groups in and around Teignmouth in South Devon. Amy explains the butterfly sculpture shows that everyone making a small, seemingly insignificant butterfly collectively leads to a big, beautiful statement. - So showing if we all do a little we get a big collective result.



Devon Branch Butterfly Conservation

Members Day 2022

Saturday 15th October 9.30am—3.30pm

At the Boniface Centre in the grounds of Crediton Parish Church
Church lane Crediton Devon EX17 2AH

- 9:30 Members day opens
- 10:00 Welcome from the Chairman, Johnathan Aylett, followed by the AGM
- 10:45 Refreshments
- 11:15 **Barry Henwood**
Field Guide to the Caterpillars of Great Britain and Ireland and the story surrounding it.
An account of the production of the book from conception to beyond publication, detailing the challenges involved and the content of the book.
- 12:30 Lunch (members to bring their own packed lunch)
- 13:30 **John Walters**
The Secret World of the Undergrowth.
Wildlife stories from this hidden world including wasp mimic Lunar Hornet Moths, jumping bean sawflies and wood carder bees.
- 14:45 Refreshments
- 15:15 To be confirmed

(all timings are approximate)
We look forward to seeing you there!

Bellever moth event

6 August 2022

About ten of us met at Bellever and set up lights on open moorland near the base of Bellever Tor. The sky was clear and Dartmoor, being upland meant that the temperature certainly dropped. Nevertheless, we managed to record 29 species including 2 larvae. Just before I started the generators we were treated to a wonderful view of a Nightjar overhead.



Yellow Underwing larva
Anarta myrtilli

The most numerous moths were Smoky Wainscot, *Mythimna impura*, Least Yellow Underwing, *Noctua interjecta* and Antler, *Cerapteryx graminis*. I used a sweep net which revealed 5 Beautiful Yellow Underwing, *Anarta myrtilli* larvae and 1 Mother Shipton arva, *Callistege mi*.



Mother Shipton larva
Callistege mi

Barry Henwood

The Mother Shipton moth is said to be named after the legendary prophet from Knaresborough, Yorkshire. Born during a thunderstorm in 1488, in a cave on the banks of the River Kidd. Mother Shipton, originally named Ursula Sontheil, was a woman shunned by society for her less than acceptable appearance. She withdrew to live in the cave where she was born, and there she learned her craft of remedies and potions by studying the forest, flowers and herbs that surrounded her. Her name and lore has survived through the centuries. If you look carefully you will see her witchy face in the moths wings.



Below is the treasurer's annual report for the Devon Branch of BC showing income and expenditure for the year ending 31st March 2022.

As with 2021/22 the activities of the Branch were again at a low level due to the effects of the pandemic.

The main item of income was the membership subscriptions which was fixed by Head Office at the previous year's level of £6513.

Donations received during the year included £447.14 given in memory of the late Jim Braven who was the warden at the Lydford Reserve until retirement. Another £75 were given by individuals, whilst a further £333 was donated by Waitrose from one of their in-store schemes

The item labelled Head Office adjustment is a one-off adjustment to bring Branch records in line with Head Office

As in the previous year, there were no sales income due to ongoing effects of the pandemic.

Our main expenditure is usually the funding of various Butterfly Conservation projects particularly those in Devon, However, the funding for the maintenance of Butterfly Conservation reserves is now carried out entirely by Head Office. The Branch, therefore, transferred funds totalling £7500 to Head Office with the specific intention that some of this funding should go to the maintenance of BC's Devon reserves

Newsletter expenses during the year of £2056.10 was for three printings of the newsletter of which, two were for the year 2021/22 but, also included one for 2020/21 due to a very late invoice delayed by the pandemic.

The meeting room hire was for two committee meetings held at the Kenn Centre when we were able to hold face-to-face meetings, whilst the office expenses were for those committee meetings which were held by Zoom.

There was no sales income during the year, the Branch incurred costs of sales of £23.50. This was for the value of written down stock being finally written off.

Hopefully the current year will be a bit more like normal compared with the previous two years. The Branch has already received the current years membership subscriptions which is still over £6000, and will be attending or have attended various events to promote the work of Butterfly Conservation.

Butterfly Conservation - Devon Branch				
Income and Expenditure account				
1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022				
<u>Treasurer - Ray Jones</u>				
		2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
Balance as at 1st April		4911.93	5373.70	2342.65
<u>Income - year to 31st March 2022</u>				
Subscriptions		6513.00	6513.00	5982.00
Grants: - Little Breach reserve		0.00	176.66	509.89
Donations - Individuals		522.14	1256.00	432.33
Donations - Corporate/organisations		333.00	0.00	410.00
Sales Income (gross)		0.00	0.00	215.96
VAT adjustment		113.98	0.00	84.23
Head Office adjustment		489.44	0.00	0.00
Other Income		0.00	0.00	48.00
TOTAL INCOME		7971.56	7945.66	7682.41
<u>Expenditure - year to 31st March 2022</u>				
Donation to Blackdown Hills Fritillary Survey		0.00	460.00	500.00
Transfer to Head Office funds		7500.00	7000.00	0.00
Insurance		17.52	12.45	12.60
Reserve maintenance - Lydford		0.00	725.00	1570.54
Reserve maintenance - Little Breach		0.00	180.00	229.10
Reserve maintenance - others		0.00	0.00	391.80
Newsletter expenses		2056.10	0.00	1515.76
Members Day expenses		0.00	0.00	167.00
Meeting room hire		50.00	0.00	125.00
Office Expenses		201.46	23.98	0.00
Mapmate licence		0.00	6.00	6.30
Cost of Sales		23.50	0.00	133.26
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		9848.58	8407.43	4651.36
<u>SUMMARY</u>				
Excess income over expenditure		-1877.02	-461.77	3031.05
Balance as at 31st March 2022		3034.91	4911.93	5373.70

Book Review

If you're looking for some inspiration this handy little book of wildlife walks could be for you.

Roger White has written a number of similar books about European walks, however this is his first written about walks closer to home. Roger wrote the book during lockdown when traveling further afield was off the cards.

Featuring some wonderful photos by Michael Brooking and Richie Moore this book offers a range of walks to suit every ability. The guide is perfect for those who have an interest in wildlife and covers an area of the South Hams around the Kingsbridge Estuary.

The members of Torbay Trotters walking group were kind enough to test out some of the walks and found the guide easy to follow and full of interesting wildlife facts. There are 16 walking routes of varying length. Descriptions of each site are comprehensive with details of access include parking and GPS. The walks follow foot paths and well marked trails.

Is it too early for the 'C' word? This book would make a lovely stocking filler!

Available from www.nhbs.com



Members of Torbay Trotters on a the Andrew's Wood walk.

NHBS started life as the Natural History Book Service in 1985 it was a mail-order supplier of 500 ornithology books based in London. Now based in Totnes in South Devon, they offer the largest range of wildlife, ecology and conservation books and equipment in the world.

NHBS works alongside Butterfly Conservation and Buglife by hosting their online shops which means we get the chance to purchase a wide range of books and raise funds for our favourite charity at the same time.

Coastal Path Fundraiser

Evan (age 6) loves nature, and decided one day on his walk to school that he would like to help save butterflies and moths. He made a plan to walk a stretch of the South West coast path to help raise money for Butterfly Conservation. Evan and his mummy, Cathy, had support on their journey from a team of roadies (his daddy Simon, and little sister Seren.)

Evan completed his walk in August. His mum Cathy said ‘Evan is so proud of his achievement, and so are we. He managed a strenuous 7 mile walk over two days and had lots of fun. He loved camping and setting off on the walk with a bag of snacks! His favourite butterflies that he found on the walk were Common Blue and Clouded Yellow. He doesn’t have a favourite butterfly in general, he likes them all.’

So far Evan has raised over £150 for Butterfly Conservation. If you would like to show him some support please visit his Just Giving page www.justgiving.com/Evans-walk

Congratulations Evan and THANK YOU very much!



Left, Clouded Yellow
Wembury 8/8/22
Dave Gregory



Right, Common Blue
Decoy 26/7/22
Dave Holloway

Winter work parties 2022

Advanced booking is essential for all events, please see details of who to contact below each event.

- Ashclyst Forest, near Exeter
(The task area has yet to be agreed with the National Trust)
Saturday 22nd October 10:30-14:30
Contact Peter Beale 01626 333106 or beale@eclipse.co.uk
- Little Breach Reserve, near Culmstock
Raking up to do after the brushcutter and also some scrub/small tree cutting.
Sunday 6th November 10:30-14:30
Contact Rick Tillet 077745491382 or rtillett85@gmail.com
- Lydford Old Railway Reserve
Continuing the essential winter clearance work for the Heath Fritillary and other butterflies.
Saturday 19th November 10:30-14:30
Contact Colin Sargent 01822 810433 or colin@colinsargent.co.uk
- Beer
A task to manage the habitat of the Red Data Book White Spot moth, which has a localised colony along the Jurassic Coast in Devon.
Saturday 26th November 10:30-14:30
Contact Paul Butter 01297 442290

For winter events bring lunch, a drink, waterproof clothing, stout footwear/boots and gardening gloves. Bring recommended tools if possible though some are usually available on the day. If severe weather is forecast, check with the leader before travelling as the event could be cancelled.

Please make sure to check **In Your Area** section of the BC website for up to date information and listings of future work parties and events.

Committee members

Jonathan Aylett - Chairman Apple Cottage, Liverton, Newton Abbot TQ12 6HN	01626 824715 jsaylett@googlemail.com
Peter Beale - Conservation Adviser 22 Frobisher Road, Newton Abbot TQ12 4HT	01626 333106 beale@eclipse.co.uk
Paul Butter - Health & Safety The Haven, Woodmead Road, Lyme Regis DT7 3AD	01297 442290 paulnbutter@hotmail.com
Emma Grice - Newsletter Editor 14 Laburnum Terrace, Abbotskerswell TQ12 5PT	07904 257193 egrice72@gmail.com
Mary Harold - Publicity Officer	01566 783188 maryjharold@gmail.com
Barry Henwood - County Moth Recorder Greenacre, 6 Lakeland, Abbotskerswell TQ12 5YF	01626 364080 barryhenwood@gmail.com
Dave Holloway - Website (sightings)	d.hllwy51@gmail.com
Pete Hurst - County Butterfly Recorder 36 Woodway Street, Chudleigh, Newton Abbot TQ13 0JU	01626 854182 pete-hurst@outlook.com
Ray Jones - Treasurer 10 Broomhill, Tiverton EX16 5AS	01884 255386 ray1432.jones@btinternet.com
Colin Sargent - Lydford Reserve Officer Stags Head House, Brentor, Tavistock PL19 ONP	01822 810433 colin@colinsargent.co.uk
Marjory Taylor - Branch Contact/Organiser Danes View, Lower Lane, Dalwood, Axminster EX13 7DW	01404 881250 marjory.devonbc7@outlook.com
Amy Walkden - Secretary/Facebook 2 Berry Close, Abbotskerswell TQ12 5PH	07787 135409 amy.amy@me.com
Heather Nixon - Field Events co-ordinator	heathernixon19@gmail.com
Non-committee posts for Devon BC	
Rick Tillett - Little Breach Reserve Officer The Old Bakery, Plymtree, Cullompton EX15 2JX	07745 491382 rtillett85@gmail.com
Jenny Evans - Transect & WCBS Co-ordinator	jennifer.evans@lineone.net
Lesley Kerry - Silver-studded Blue Co-ordinator	01395 567880 lesleymkerry@gmail.com
Amanda Hunter - IYA Web team/Twitter	amanda.bc@clara.co.uk
Bill Potter - In Your Area Web team member	w_j_potter@hotmail.com



Dingy Skipper *Erynnis tages*
Axmouth
Karen Wooley



Drinker moth larva *Euthrix potatoria*
South Molton
Gary Watson



Brown Argus *Aricia agestis*
Decoy, Newton Abbot
John Fiske



Long-tailed Blue *Lampides boeticus*
Axminster beach
Roger Laughton



Saving butterflies, moths and their habitats

**Butterfly
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Registered Office: Manor Yard, East Lulworth,
Wareham, Dorset. BH20 5QP. Tel: 01929 400209
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