

Publicity Officers Annual Report 2024

The Butterfly Conservation stand is frequently invited to attend a number of events around Devon each Spring and Summer and is a great way of introducing the public to who we are and what we do.

If you would be willing to help at our publicity events please contact me via email: maryjharold@gmail.com We do not attend many events so it is not an onerous task but new help is much appreciated!

Please see below for further details of some of the things we have been involved with in the last twelve months.

Events

This year we attended 4 events at; The Garden House, Buckland Monachorum; Shaldon Botanical Garden; Green Phoenix Festival, Exeter Phoenix; Meldon Wildlife Festival

When we attend an event we aim to take our information stand and display and offer an insight into the work of Butterfly Conservation. When possible we take live moths and caterpillars along for the public to see which attracts a lot of interest. We also encourage visitors to create wildlife gardens and children are given the chance to plant a flower to take home for their garden to make it more butterfly, moth and insect friendly. We also promote the Big Butterfly Count.

We try to cover some different events each year and are always pleased to learn of new venues - so if any members know of a suitable event please let us know!

Many thanks to all the volunteers who have helped at our publicity events this year who include: Jonathan Aylett, Peter Beale, Ella Chambers, Graham & Barbara Davey, Emma Grice, Amy & Robin Walkden, Lorna Welch

Everyone's help, enthusiasm and expertise is much appreciated and I do believe that it continues to be a worthwhile part of the work of Butterfly Conservation.

Thank you too if you have volunteered but have not yet been called to help, it is great to know we have your support and we will contact you when necessary.

Lydford Reserve Information Board

An illustrated information board was installed on the reserve this year.

Colin Sargent suggested we install an information board at our Lydford Reserve highlighting the Fritillary butterflies that make this such an important site. Colin was able to secure some sponsorship - £250 - from Ambrosia, Premier Foods, Lifton to help pay for the board. Max Anderson, BC's South West Landscape Officer, offered his advice and helped the branch design the board.

Lydford Primary School Walk

We invited the school to visit our Lydford Reserve for a guided walk in July. This was a new venture for Devon Branch suggested by Colin Sargent. The walk was fortunate to take place on a beautifully, sunny day and was much enjoyed by 27 children and six teachers. Max Anderson led the walk with Colin Sargent. Thanks also to Pete Hurst, Graham & Barbara Davey who brought along live specimens of moths, moth eggs and caterpillars which were of great interest.

Butterfly Leaflets

Our work to produce an on-line Butterfly Walks resource is ongoing. Please note that this is an important project for us which we started as a remembrance of Roger Bristow who made an immense contribution to the Devon Branch. The hope is that walks will appear on this section that visitors will be able to print off and follow with the expectation that they might see particular butterflies at certain times of the year. If anyone would be willing to contribute a written butterfly walk - please contact me - we would love your input.

We now have four walks on our IYA page

Orley Common - Pete Hurst
Ashclyst Forest - Paul Butter
Berry Head - Amanda Hunter
Kerswell Downs - David Poole

Sidmouth Museum

We supplied Sidmouth Museum with information leaflets as they are holding an exhibition about butterflies this year.

Mary Harold
October 2024