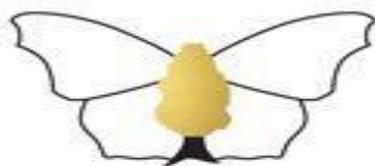


Butterfly Conservation
Cumbria Branch

Newsletter 36
Spring 2018



Butterfly Conservation

50th Anniversary

Some species we don't have in Cumbria!



White Admiral – Gt. Bookham Common, Surrey



Purple Emperor – Gt. Bookham Common, Surrey



Swallowtail – How Hill, Norfolk



Chalkhill Blue – Devil's Ditch, Newmarket



Chequered Skipper – Glasdrum Wood, Argyll



Silver Spotted Skipper – Aston Rowant, Oxfordshire



Heath Fritillary – Blean Woods, Kent



Glanville Fritillary – Isle of Wight

MESSAGE FROM our BRANCH CHAIRMAN



Welcome to the spring 2018 issue of our Cumbria Branch Newsletter.....and 'congratulations' to Butterfly Conservation as it is almost exactly 50 years ago since BC was founded. From a very modest operation 'out of a shoe box' from a private house in Quorn in Leicestershire [March 1968] BC has become the world's largest and most active charity dedicated to the conservation of butterflies and moths and their habitats. With 34,000 current members it would surely be wonderful to reach 40,000 during our anniversary year.....and to help boost numbers Head office have some fantastic half price and free membership deals available now! This is an 'unashamed' appeal to you all to encourage friends and neighbours and all who love our beautiful butterflies and moths to 'join us' by contacting HO on 01929 400209 and asking for 'new membership offers'.

We reach another 'milestone' today with Steve Doyle's final newsletter. As many will know Steve was the first branch chairman and along with numerous other tasks has produced [at times almost single handed] every issue of our newsletter to date. 'Thank you Steve' for the outstanding service you have given in producing 36 issues. [See tributes to Steve in this issue] We also welcome Karen McLellan as our new newsletter editor....she has worked alongside Steve in this issue and will take up the post in full from issue 37 this autumn. Karen's contact e-mail for articles and contributions is near the back of this issue.....please send contributions by the end of July.

A further appeal to you is to jot down our summer guided walks [listed in this issue] in your diaries. If you have been before you will know that apart from seeing lots of butterflies and day flying moths we visit some of the most beautiful countryside in the UK. I believe we have another superb programme; friends and family are welcome and further details on directions and parking etc are on our web-site. However if you can only make one visit I recommend our 'flagship' Members day....this year at RSPB Leighton Moss and at nearby Gait Barrow NNR [to see Duke of Burgundy] on Sunday 20th May. For details see later in this issue.

As I write this in late February we have just had several sunny days that have brought Brimstone out of hibernation. After a winter of more frost than of recent years the cold weather should benefit many species. With eternal optimism [and after lots of fabulous habitat management by BC contractors and volunteers] let us hope 2018 will be a fantastic year for all our 40 species of Cumbrian butterfly....and our 1,500 species of macro and micro moth!

Best wishes,
Chris Winnick



Time for Change

..... and a new Newsletter Editor.

Time does not stand still for any of us so the need to plan ahead reaches us all at some point. That point arrived for me last year after the Spring newsletter when circumstances which arose convinced me that someone else should take over as newsletter editor. I'd edited all 35 newsletters issued since Cumbria Branch first started so you can imagine the need for fresh ideas and continuity in the future by someone who is a great deal younger than me. In addition I want to spend more time with grandchildren and also deal with other challenges in life.

I plan to continue my work with both the Marsh Fritillary Project and the Small Blue Project as long as I'm able but both still present time consuming challenges and if things are to be done properly that time has to be spent on them. If you don't do things properly they don't succeed, fact.

I've enjoyed most of my time editing the newsletters over the years and I still get a lot of enjoyment in writing generally on non- butterfly subjects, but as I said earlier the time comes when it is sensible to hand over – and that time is now. Karen McLellan has kindly agreed to take over and I'll help her as much as possible with this latest newsletter but then step aside to let her put her own stamp on things. Cumbria Branch will continue to thrive under the great leadership of Chris Winnick and his Committee and I'll continue my work in north and west Cumbria. Hopefully it will be a seamless change. Meantime as members please support Karen by sending in articles for future newsletters – she can't write it all by herself.

Steve Doyle.

Tributes to Steve Doyle as our outgoing Newsletter Editor

Steve Doyle is NOT retiring from his work for Marsh Fritillaries and Small Blue and for work parties and guided walks but after 36 issues of our Cumbria Branch Newsletter this is his final issue as editor. Steve is modest about his outstanding achievements but we cannot let this moment pass without paying due tribute.

Julie Williams (Chief Executive of Butterfly Conservation)

Steve joined BC in 1987 and very quickly became the voice of BC in the North. His contribution to setting up the North of England Branch and then the Cumbria Branch led to members in those areas becoming well represented and better informed about conservation in their area. Steve will be a very hard act to follow as Newsletter Editor but although he is moving on from this role I am delighted that he is planning to continue with all his amazing work for Marsh Fritillary and Small Blue in north west Cumbria. On behalf of all BC staff, volunteers and Trustees I would like to thank Steve for his hard work, commitment and dedication in producing the Cumbria Branch newsletter since day one. It is volunteers like Steve who make

BC the great organisation that we are all so proud of and I am extremely grateful for all he has done and continues to do.

Dr Martin Warren (former BC Chief Executive)

It is truly the end of an era to learn that Steve Doyle is stepping down as Editor of the Cumbria Branch newsletter, but my goodness what a legacy he has left. During my first two decades with BC during the 1990s and 2000s, Steve was Mr Cumbria and I am incredibly grateful to him for sharing his energy and infectious enthusiasm on my trips north. Steve was there when we produced the Regional Action Plan, when we stepped up efforts to save the High Brown Fritillary, and he was a major instigator of the wildly successful reintroduction of the Marsh Fritillary. Amongst all this he gave his time to edit the newsletter, writing some of the fascinating content himself. Over the years, he galvanised those around him to get involved in BC and he has been pivotal in making the Branch the great success it is today. I would like to join many others in thanking him for all his hard work over many years and wish him well in his future endeavours, which I am sure will include his beloved butterflies. Thanks Steve, you did a superb job and we are extremely grateful.

David Dennis (Past Chairman BC)

I have just heard from Chris Winnick that this Newsletter, No 36, is to be Steve Doyle's last as Editor. In fact, I know that he has been, over many years, far more than just 'Editor', having been such a major contributor and practical organiser as well. Throughout my time as a trustee, reading the Cumbria newsletter always gave me particular pleasure, because of its positive enthusiasm and clear information about the conservation of some of our most beautiful and threatened species. And of course, it helped that the glorious landscapes of Cumbria are one of my favourite parts of the world! So I would like to say a huge 'Thank you' to Steve for all his hard work over so many years and for bringing Cumbria branch and its activities alive for me in such an outstanding way.

Sam Ellis (Senior Conservation Officer BC)

I have had the pleasure of knowing Steve Doyle since the early 1990s when he and I were founder members of the North of England Branch. Steve went on to form the Cumbria Branch where he seemed to run the Branch single-handed for many years and I always looked forward to reading his informative Newsletter. During the 1990s when BC had few paid staff it was Steve who represented the organisation very ably at partnership meetings such as the Cumbria Marsh Fritillary and High Brown Fritillary Action Groups. Steve was tremendously supportive when I became the first Northern England Regional Officer and continued to play a major role in developing the projects that are now doing so much for Cumbria's butterflies. I'm sure all Cumbria Branch members are aware of the role Steve played, and continues to play, in the reintroduction of the Marsh Fritillary. Further south in the county it was Steve who built a working relationship with the owner of the

Stanley Estates, leading to the estate being included in our first major funding application on the Morecambe Bay Limestones and hence to the fantastic woodland management in Witherslack Woods during the last decade.

It is often said volunteers are the bedrock of Butterfly Conservation and Steve Doyle is one of the best, making a huge contribution to the conservation of Cumbria's butterflies. It has been a great pleasure and privilege to work with him. He may be retiring as Newsletter Editor but I'm sure that will just give him more time to help Cumbria's Marsh Fritillaries and Small Blues!

Dave Wainwright (BC Regional Officer)

Butterfly Conservation is blessed with some of the most dedicated volunteers it would be possible to meet. The only way that some - such as Steve Doyle - could offer more would be if someone decided that each day should contain more than 24 hours. Steve lives and breathes butterflies, he has done since I first met him in the 1990s and probably always will. As a Regional Officer, his assistance continues to be invaluable. In fact assistance is probably the wrong word, as for certain species it's me who assists him! Most readers will be aware of the fantastic work Steve continues to do, not least through the medium of Cumbria Branch's excellent newsletter - produced, and, historically, largely written by the man himself. I'd like to wish Steve well in his "retirement" - though I suspect there'll be none of the inactivity that the word sometimes implies. Thanks Steve!"

Paul Kirkland (Director of Scotland BC)

Indefatigable - that's our Steve. Remorselessly and tirelessly pursuing the dream of better days, against all the odds. He spent a good part of his former years ploughing a lonely furrow supporting an unfashionable cause. But his shark-like drive, cool, unflustered determination and heroic leading from the front has created an army of loyal followers, willing to go to all corners in extremis, to show that success can be achieved despite the doomsayers and philistines. There is light at the end of the tunnel, the future is beginning to look rosier, although he takes nothing for granted and is unshakeable in his pursuit of his goals. And this is just his legendary support for Montrose Football Club!

Jean and David Ellwood.

'We have had so much pleasure over the years on Steve Doyle's work parties and field trips. Highlights include Workington after rain when the sun brought out a legion of Small Blue. Also at Hodbarrow when Walls, Gatekeepers and 'blues' were about and the time above the Three Shires when the poor weather could not stop the appearance of one Mountain Ringlet. Many happy days and in such good company' .

We are very grateful for these tributes to Steve. On behalf of the Cumbria Committee and all our membership I would like to add a final tribute. 'Steve you have been a wonderful

Newsletter Editor for 36 issues and 18 years. Thank you for all you have done for Cumbria; it is much appreciated.' We will all miss this aspect of Steve's work however I am sure he will still keep us up to date with articles and these along with all others will now be edited by our new Newsletter Editor Karen McLellan. 'Welcome Karen' we are delighted you have agreed to take on this key post.

Chris Winnick.



Butterfly Conservation Cumbria Branch, Summer 2018 Field Trips and Events

CUMBRIA BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION MEMBERS DAY and AGM: SPECIAL 50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT AT RSPB LEIGHTON MOSS, SILVERDALE

SUNDAY 20 MAY 2018

We are pleased to announce that our SPECIAL BC 50TH ANNIVERSARY OPEN DAY and AGM will be held at this spectacular wildlife site, with the indoor parts of the day's proceedings held in the Holt Room, behind the main building across the road from the car park. The provisional programme is as follows, but if the weather dictates we may 'flip' the programme by taking the field trip immediately after the moth trap opening, with the indoor events after lunch:

0930-1030 Open moth traps, with opportunities for photography

1045-1130 An illustrated talk by Steve Benner on moths of the local area

1145-1230 An illustrated talk by Bill Grayson on conservation grazing at Gait Barrows and other local sites

1230-1300 A brief Annual General Meeting with opportunities to ask questions of the Cumbria Branch Committee

1300-1345 Lunch break, with opportunities of hot or cold food in the adjoining café, enjoying your own picnic lunch, bird-watching or browsing the RSPB shop. (Tea and coffee are available in the Holt Room throughout the day at £1 per cup.) Then reassemble in the car park at Gait Barrows National Nature Reserve, grid ref SD478775 – car-parking limited here so car-share if possible or offer lifts to those who have arrived by public transport.

1400-1600 (approx) Guided walk on the reserve, with target species of: Duke of Burgundy; Pearl-bordered and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries; Brown Hairstreak larvae; Whitespotted Sable Moth (*Anania funebris*).

This is our PREMIER EVENT of the year, so please come if you can! Non-members welcome too.

Directions to site: Park in the RSPB car park close to Silverdale railway station at grid ref SD478750 / satnav LA5 0SW, or travel by train to Silverdale station, journey planner at: <http://ojp.nationalrail.co.uk/service/planjourney/search>

Contact: Chris Winnick 01539 728254, Martin Tordoff 01539 735935

Chris Winnick (Branch Chairman)

FIELD TRIPS

(Outline directions only below; for more detail see the Branch web site.)

The Butterflies of Warton Crag Tuesday 22 May 1000–1400

Joint event: Butterfly Conservation Cumbria & Lancashire branches

Target species: Pearl-bordered and possibly early Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries; Dingy Skipper; Green Hairstreak; Small Heath, and other spring species.

Directions: Meet at Warton Quarry car park, grid ref SD491723

Contact: Chris Winnick 01539 728254

The Butterflies at Ormsgill Slag Banks, Barrow-in-Furness Thursday 24 May 1030, plus optional visit to Sandscale Haws from 1330 for guided walk led by Colin Newlands

Joint with Arnside Natural History Society

Target Species at Ormsgill: Dingy Skipper, Common Blue, Small Blue. And at Sandscale Haws: young Natterjack Toads, orchids and sand dune flora.

Directions: Parking area by slag banks just off A590T at grid ref SD192712.

Contact: Chris Winnick 01539 728254

The Butterflies and Spring flowers of Holme Stinted Pastures and Holme Park Fell

Tuesday 29 May 1030-1400

Target species: Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary and possibly the best display of hawthorn flowers (with Bluebell and Buttercup) that you will ever see!

Directions: Meet at the Clawthorpe Road layby, grid ref SD543783

Contact: Chris Winnick 01539 728254

Mountain Ringlets at Irton Fell Saturday 2 June 1045-1500

A gentle climb to see Mountain Ringlets at their lowest altitude site in Lakeland, plus possibility of Argent & Sable moths. Possible extension to Whin Rigg summit. Contact leader first if weather bad or doubtful.

Directions: Meet at car park at grid ref NY121012 on Eskdale Green to Santon Bridge road.

Contact: Martin Tordoff 01539 735935, 07981 348148

Marsh Fritillaries at Finglandrigg Wood National Nature Reserve Sunday 3 June from 1030.

With option of afternoon extension to visit Small Blue site at Workington subject to sufficient interest.

Directions: West of Carlisle on B5307 through the joint villages of Thurstonfield/Kirkbampton. Haverlands car park is a further 1.5miles west on the left. Grid Ref NY 284572

Contact: Steve Doyle 01228 544059

The Butterflies of Farrer's Allotment, Whitbarrow

Tuesday 5 June 1000–1300 [option to 1500] Joint with BC Lancashire branch

Target species: Pearl-bordered and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries, with possible extension to see Duke of Burgundy at adjacent Gillbirks site.

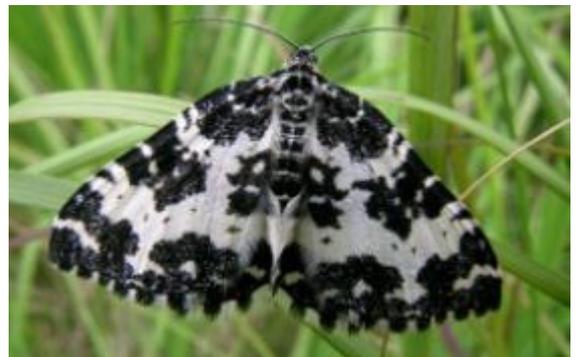
Directions: Park at Johnscapes Farm, grid ref SD462867, satnav LA8 8DG

Contact: Chris Winnick 01539 728254

The Argent & Sable Moth in the Rusland Horizons Landscape Workshop Day -

Friday 8 June 1030-1530. A "Wings in the Wood" event, joint with BC Cumbria.

Dr Dave Wainwright, Butterfly Conservation, North Senior Officer discovered this rare moth in the Rusland Horizons Landscape Area last summer. The day will start at Roudsea Moss where the moth is known to live, and the afternoon will be spent surveying in the Rusland area to look for the food



plant and the moth. Please book a place by emailing Hilary Smith, Rusland Horizons Wings in the Woods Project Officer. **Contact:** hsmith@butterfly-conservation.org.

The Butterflies of Halecat / Nichols Moss Wednesday 20 June 1100-1500

Target species: Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Northern Brown Argus and Large Heath. After a woodland ramble we will take a short walk on to Nichols Moss to look for Large Heath.

Directions: Halecat Nursery car park at grid ref SD433835, satnav LA11 6RT

Contact: Martin Chadwick 015395 32553 or 07722571327 on the day

Butterflies and Wildlife Management at Hutton Roof Crags Nature Reserve

Wednesday 4 July 1030-1600 (approx). Joint with Cumbria Wildlife Trust

Target species: High Brown, Dark Green, and possibly late Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries, Common Blue, Grayling, plus a chance to learn about the management that's done to protect these species. A walk of around 6km over difficult terrain.

Directions: Meet at south end of Hutton Roof village, grid ref SD570780

Leaders: Andrew Walter, Chris Winnick. **Contact:** Chris Winnick 01539 728254

The Butterflies of Hampsfell / Hampsfield Allotment Monday 9 July 1100 - 1430

Includes locations on Bishop's / Hampsfell Allotments, and visits to newt pond and recentlyseeded wild flower meadows. *Target species:* High Brown and Dark Green Fritillaries

Directions: Meet at Hampsfield Farm, grid ref SD405786 (car-sharing if possible), or on Green Lane verges at SD391805 for public footpath to start point at SD398808.

Contact: David Jackson 015395 33322

Moths at CWT Plumgarths Gardens Friday pm 20 July 2115 -late and Saturday am 21 July 0830-1000: Joint with Cumbria Wildlife Trust

Our seventh annual moth event in these attractive gardens, hoping to add to our tally of over 170 moth species already identified here. We identify moths as they arrive, then open the traps on Saturday morning to examine the night's moth catch. Feel free to attend one or both events. Subject to cancellation if wet, cold or windy.

Directions: Meet at CWT, Plumgarths, Kendal, grid ref SD494947, satnav LA8 8LX **Contact** Martin Tordoff 01539 735935, 07981 348148

Booking in advance required by phoning CWT on 01539 816300

The Moths of Great Wood, Derwent Water Friday 27 July from 2100 -late, then Saturday 28 July from 0830 hrs. Joint event with National Trust. *Target species:* Netted Carpet – a rare opportunity to (hopefully) see this moth in its stunningly beautiful adult form, along with many other interesting species. We identify moths as they arrive, then open the traps on Saturday morning to examine the night's catch. Feel free to attend either or both sessions, but check first if weather doubtful and remember to bring a torch. **Directions:** Meet at NT's Great Wood car park, grid ref NY271204, satnav CA12 5UP **Contact:** Martin Tordoff 07981 348148.

The Moths of Brantwood, Coniston Water, Friday 3 August 2100-late, then Saturday 4 August from 0830 hrs. Joint event with Friends of Brantwood and Rusland Horizons Project. *Target species:* Netted Carpet – a rare opportunity to (hopefully) see this moth in its stunningly beautiful adult form, along with many other interesting species. We identify moths as they arrive, then open the traps on Saturday morning to examine the night's catch.

Feel free to attend either or both sessions, but check first if weather doubtful and remember to bring a torch.

Directions: Meet at Brantwood's car park, grid ref SD311957, satnav LA21 8AD.

Contact: Martin Tordoff 07981 348148.

The Butterflies of Allithwaite Quarry, Wart Barrow and Humphrey Head

Saturday 4 August 1300-1700

A chance to explore the quarry and the recently cleared limestone grassland of Wart Barrow. *Target species:* Northern Brown Argus, Wall, White-letter Hairstreak. We will then drive to Humphrey Head to search for Purple Hairstreak. Bring binoculars. If wishing to join us for the hairstreak hunt only please contact me beforehand.

Directions: Park at Allithwaite playing field, grid ref SD388767, or for Humphrey Head, at 1500 by cattle grid, grid ref SD388747 or at shore car park

Contact: Martin Chadwick 015395 32553 or 07722571327 on the day

Butterflies of Witherslack Woodlands and Howe Ridding Wood, Wednesday 8 August

1000-1500. Joint with Cumbria Wildlife Trust

Target species: Silver-washed, High Brown and Dark Green Fritillaries, Common Blue and possibly Northern Brown Argus.

Directions: Meet at "The Kennels" next to Witherslack Hall School, at grid ref SD436859.

Contact: Chris Winnick 01539 728254

Butterflies and Wildlife Management at Smardale Gill Nature Reserve

Thursday 9 August from 1000-1500 Joint with Cumbria Wildlife Trust

Target species: Scotch Argus plus hopefully another dozen common species.

Directions: Park in lay-by on Newbiggin – Great Asby road at grid ref NY701056

Leaders: Andrew Walter, Peter Boardman. **Contact:** Peter Boardman 017683 42079

The Moths of St Catherine's Footprint Centre, Windermere, Friday 10 August 2045-late, then Saturday 11 August from 0830. Joint event with National Trust. *Target species:* Netted Carpet – a rare opportunity to (hopefully) see this moth in its stunningly beautiful adult form, along with many other interesting species. We identify moths as they arrive, then open the traps on Saturday morning to examine the night's catch. Feel free to attend either or both sessions, but check first if weather doubtful and remember to bring a torch.

Directions: At NT's Footprint Centre off A592, grid ref SD409997, satnav LA23 1NH. Limited parking so car-share if possible. **Contact:** Martin Tordoff 07981 348148.

The Hairstreaks of Gait Barrows Saturday 11 August 0915-1300

Joint Butterfly Conservation Cumbria and Lancashire branches

Target species: Brown and Purple Hairstreak (hopefully adults and eggs) and other late summer species. May be re-arranged for the following day if poor weather so please register with tomdunbar@sky.com and check the branches' web-sites.

Directions: Meet in the NNR car park at grid ref SD478775

Moths at Latterbarrow Nature Reserve, Wednesday 15 August 2045 until late.

Joint with Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Arnside Natural History Society

Butterfly Conservation volunteers will be running moth traps around this beautiful reserve with its mosaic of limestone grassland, scrub and woodland, and hope to add to the list of over 200 moth species already recorded there. Please check first if weather doubtful.

Directions: Park near reserve entrance at SD440827

Contact Martin Tordoff 07981 348148, 01539 735935

The late summer Butterflies of Kendal

Sunday 19 August 1000–1300

Target species: Small Tortoiseshell, Red Admiral, Peacock, Painted Lady, Comma and other late summer butterflies. Most of the walk will be on or near Kendal Golf Course.

Directions: Park around grid ref SD507924 and meet at the Lime Kiln

Contact: Chris Winnick 01539 728254

Outdoor Events - general advice and information: For all outdoor events participants should bring suitable outdoor clothing, waterproofs and boots or similar. Bring a packed lunch for whole day events, and sun cream and plenty of water in hot weather. For evening moth etc. events bring clothing as above plus a good torch with new / recharged batteries. General safety advice will be given before all our events but we ask all who attend to take personal responsibility for their own safety and possessions and to pay special regard to trip hazards and the likely presence of ticks. Well-behaved dogs on short leads are welcome on our daytime events unless shown otherwise. If you require further information or wish to check whether an event has been postponed or cancelled due to poor weather, please contact the walk leader or contact before setting out.

We will be supporting the national **Big Butterfly Count** (Friday 20 July to Sunday 12 August 2018) by encouraging butterfly walk participants to take part. All you need do is record one or more times during this period for 15 minutes in your own garden, a local park, nature reserve etc, then submit the records online. Our walk leaders will bring survey forms, but full details available at www.bigbutterflycount.org/



big butterfly count
14th July - 6th August

Waitrose



Red Admiral thrives despite wet summer

One of the UK's most striking and widespread butterflies, the Red Admiral, has experienced a record summer despite soggy weather conditions causing problems for other species, results from the Big Butterfly Count have revealed.

The Red Admiral saw its numbers rise by 75% compared to 2016, with more than 73,000 seen during the Count's three-week recording period. This number is as many as were counted in the last three years of the Big Butterfly Count put together and the highest number by far for the butterfly since the project began.

But wet July and August weather meant that 2017 was not a vintage summer with the UK's three common species of white butterfly all experiencing declines. The admiral boom was helped by a good year in 2016 followed by a mild winter and warm spring this year. Red Admirals that had overwintered in the UK and fresh immigrants arriving in spring from southern Europe enjoyed an early and successful breeding season giving rise to a bumper summer brood.

Although a common sight in gardens, a few decades ago the Red Admiral was strictly a summer visitor to the UK. Butterflies arrived from warmer parts of Europe in the spring and summer, bred here and then their offspring flew south before winter. While migration is still a major feature of the Red Admiral's lifestyle, many now overwinter in the UK and it is the most commonly recorded butterfly during the winter months.

The Red Admiral was pipped to the top spot in this year's Count by the Gatekeeper which was the most commonly seen species with 93,171 counted in total, a 24% increase on last year's result. A record 60,000 participants took part in the Count, the world's largest butterfly survey, counting more than 550,000 individual butterflies during the three-week, high-summer recording period,

Other winners include the distinctive Comma which benefited from the warm spring by producing a strong summer generation. This was a big increase on the poor year for the Comma in 2016, with numbers up 90% year-on-year.

Numbers of the Small Copper increased by 62% compared to last summer's Count and the Common Blue experienced a rise of 109% during the same period. But all three of the UK's common white butterflies declined with the Green-veined White and Large White down 38% and the Small White down 37%. It was the worst Big Butterfly Count on record for the Green-veined White and the second worst for the other two species.

A mild winter and warm spring meant some species emerged earlier than normal so that some were already past their peak numbers by the time of the Count. The very wet summer then had a negative impact on the numbers of butterflies being seen. Participants recorded the lowest number of individuals spotted per count since the scheme began, with an average of just 11 butterflies seen.

Butterfly Conservation's Head of Recording, Richard Fox said: "It hasn't been a vintage summer for butterflies, but there have been some real positives.

"The flurry of Red Admirals on buddleia bushes, vivid golden Commas holding territories along the hedgerows and beautiful flecks of blue and orange among the long grass as Common Blues and Small Coppers made the most of the sunshine before the next shower. Above all, the highlight of Big Butterfly Count 2017 has been the huge number of people that have got involved, spent time enjoying and counting our native butterflies and moths and done something useful and important in the face of so much wildlife decline."

Results from the Big Butterfly Count help Butterfly Conservation to find out how the UK's common species are faring and how to best protect them in the future. More than threequarters of the UK's butterflies have declined in the last 40 years with some common species, such as the Small Tortoiseshell, suffering significant slumps.

The Big Butterfly Count is sponsored by Waitrose. Tor Harris, Head of Sustainability and Responsible Sourcing said: "We're really happy our support of the Big Butterfly Count has helped such a large number of people get involved in wildlife research. The environment is important to all of us so we're thankful to everyone who took part to produce the results."

Results can be found at www.bigbutterflycount.org

Big Butterfly Count 2017 – top 10 species ranking

1. Gatekeeper	93,171 seen
2. Red Admiral	73,161
3. Meadow Brown	69,528
4. Small White	61,812
5. Large White	61,064
6. Peacock	29,454
7. Comma	22,436
8. Small Tortoiseshell	20,267
9. Common Blue	19,567
10. Speckled Wood	18,639

Contacts: For pictures, interviews and broadcast quality species footage contact the Butterfly Conservation Press Office news@butterfly-conservation.org 01929 406005

Butterfly Conservation is the UK charity dedicated to saving butterflies, moths and our environment. Our research provides advice on how to conserve and restore habitats. We run programmes for more than 100 threatened species and we are involved in conserving hundreds of sites and reserves. www.butterfly-conservation.org

Small Blue Update



..... as we move into the 2018 season.

As I write this I'm very much on edge awaiting a decision by Allerdale Planning in respect of our most successful Small Blue habitat restoration project at Oldside windfarm in Workington. It is our most natural site and now the only 'core' colony left in Workington north of the River Derwent. There is a plan to create a gypsy/travellers site on habitat adjoining our butterfly colony but that plan as suggested

would also destroy our best breeding area by extending on to it – thus it would be bulldozed and destroyed.

I'm thinking positive however because there have also been others supporting our case for this extremely rich wildlife habitat, not just for Small Blue butterflies but another 24 species also recorded there. In addition it is an important habitat for legally protected ground nesting birds as well as a variety of wildflowers including Bee Orchids. That Workington should have such rich habitat right on its doorstep is such an asset that I can hardly imagine a decision being made to bulldoze it after we have spent the major part of a Sizeable Grant Aid funding there with Allerdale's permission. Fingers crossed that a sensible decision is made.

Even with the threat hanging over the site we have continued to work there on habitat restoration and creation work. It is work done in liaison with the Workington Nature Partnership (WNP) who I mentioned a couple of newsletters ago. It is a fairly small group but together we get a tremendous amount of work done whatever the weather. Fingers crossed for Oldside.

The WNP volunteers also help us on the ex steelworks site where we are managing approximately 10,000 square metres of habitat. Persimmon Homes are building 100's of houses on the other 95% of the site but have let us retain the best and most suitable area for Small Blue butterflies. Numbers crashed on this site as it was de-commissioned by Corus Steel a few years ago and resembled a lunar landscape when they had finished. Since then the habitat area we work on now has been left alone and is restoring itself well aided by

management by ourselves and the Workington Nature Partnership. The all important Kidney Vetch (larval egg laying and food plant) is thriving and I'm hopeful by the end of May that the site will resemble a yellow haze of Kidney Vetch flowers. More than that I hope sufficient Small Blues emerge there and lay lots and lots of eggs. We have to make sure this site works. As far as habitat management is concerned we must tread carefully this winter because there has been so much disturbance there is a need now to leave it alone to restore itself as much as possible. That said, we have been busy removing unwanted scrub growth which is largely Sea Buckthorn and very invasive stuff. Sadly it is a fact of life that will need to be done annually as spraying it will kill the Kidney Vetch as well. Equally pulling it out by the roots would require heavy machinery and we don't want that either for now at least. Looking further ahead we will need to trim the more robust areas of grassland at some point. At present however there are plenty of bare areas of low nutrient substrates which are ideal. When grass management is required the likely plan will be to do it rotationally so that all areas are not affected at the same time. That might also give us an opportunity to carry out more robust work on the Sea Buckthorn in the same working areas. Gently does it for now however and the 2018 summer season will tell us a lot. Again, fingers crossed.



Something else on the horizon is the possibility of a Pollinator Project fronted by Cumbria Wildlife Trust and targeted at the West Cumbria coastline initially. Funding is the key but if successful it will be good to work alongside our friends in CWT on what sounds like an exciting project which can benefit butterflies and the rare Small Blue in particular.

Elsewhere we have in both 2017 and 2016 carried out a great deal of Small Blue survey work. All of it is done voluntarily but small satellite colonies have been located away from our core colonies in Workington and Maryport. This is extremely important work and my thanks go particularly to Robert and Richard for the work they do. Whilst satellite colonies are useful and pleasing to find however we must never forget that small satellite colonies will not survive on their own long term. They need larger core colonies at the centre of a population and just as importantly there must be realistic wildlife connectivity corridors to allow movement of species to maintain genetic diversity. The alternative is isolation, inbreeding and within an insect world that can spell disaster very quickly.

Year 2018 then is another key year for the Small Blue butterfly in West Cumbria. We will do our best along with Raegan and her troops from Workington Nature Partnership who have been immense in their support. Hopefully as I say, commonsense will prevail in planning terms and the weather during the flight season in late May/early June will be kind.

Marsh Fritillary Project Update

.... Yes, it's still going strong.



I was delighted with the 2017 Marsh Fritillary season which overall produced almost exactly the same number of larval webs as in the record 2016 year at just over 3,000 in number. That was despite a 50% drop in numbers at our flagship site in Ennerdale but in mitigation the number of webs at that particular site in 2016 was not sustainable for the size of the habitat area and the

2017 larval web count was more likely to be sustainable. The upside however of the immense 2016 figure is that individual butterflies 'exploded' out of that site and have self colonised other habitat patches. Some have even found their way longer distances – we even had one at Oldside near the beach in Workington during a field trip there for other species. The other upside is that even though our flagship site reduced by 50% (to a figure of over 700 webs) that was sufficiently made up by increases on our other sites which now total 15 but make that 18 because some of our very big sites have more than one colony, such as Finglandrigg and the one at Bassenthwaite.

At our Marsh Fritillary Action Group AGM in November we discussed sustainable



management of our sites bearing in mind some of us are 'getting on a bit.' So too are some of our farmers who work the land under agri-environment schemes. Some action is already underway as a result but it is worth recording here that such discussions are ongoing and essential if our successful project is to continue successfully in the future. As I've said before, if you fail to plan then you plan to fail!

Steve Doyle

Moths in West Cumbria

The combination of Cumbria's large size, low population density and challenging road network does not lend itself to intensive moth recording. It is also quite far north and west in Britain and, despite being home to many sought after moth species, it does not have the moth diversity of the southern Counties, nor does it receive a wide range of migrant species. The combination of these factors means there are relatively few active recorders in the county (both currently and historically), and even fewer with the time and resources to trap regularly beyond their own gardens. Certain areas of the county are well recorded such as the southern moorlands and woods, the southeast limestone scarps and pavements and the northern (Solway) moorlands. Even by Cumbrian standards, West Cumbria, has been given little attention by moth recorders. For the purposes of this article West Cumbria is loosely defined as the boroughs of Allerdale and Copeland.

I moved to St Bees in early 2016 and shortly after into accommodation with a large, mature garden in a relatively rural spot where I could commence regular light trapping. Eager to find out more about Cumbrian moths in general and meet like-minded individuals I did some research and soon became aware of the 'grey square challenge'.



Ahead of this year's publication of the first ever atlas of macro-moths in Great Britain a team of keen Cumbrian 'moth-ers' were busy trying to fill holes on the map, with an aim of recording 100 macromoth species in every hectad (a square measuring 10 km x 10 km) (for the period 2000 to 2016) featuring at least a fraction of Cumbrian landmass by the end of 2016. No easy feat especially

considering that some squares had very little landmass indeed due to their coastal or county boundary locale. Fortunately, many squares were already over the 100 species mark from historical recording – but there remained several gaps, especially in the west of the county. It was exciting to get involved and take on the challenge of trying to haul four squares over the mark.

Through the efforts of a few recorders, there have been some very interesting additions to the moths of west Cumbria. A perusal of maps of the area indicates that the pockets of attractive, semi-natural habitat remaining are few and far between and there is a limited number of protected areas. Notable exceptions and good examples include the following examples; dune and estuary systems of Eskmeals and Drigg as well as Dubmill Point further north. Mature woodland of Muncaster which would surely reward diligent trapping and is already well documented to hold a population of the Nationally Rare and extremely localised Netted Carpet (*Eustroma reticulata*). Boggy heathland of Hallsenna Moor and established mixed woodland around the western lakes such as Ennerdale, Loweswater and Crummock. And finally, Siddick Pond offers an established reedbed system. My own trapping has focussed



on Lanthwaite Wood (Crummock Water), Ennerdale, Hallsenna Moor, Drigg and the tiny SSSI of Hollas Moss located just south of Nethertown. And there have been several other west Cumbria localities visited recently by other moth recorders, producing many remarkable records.

From a conservation perspective the most important

Pine Beauty recent discovery was of small numbers of the Nationally Scarce day-flier Argent and Sable (*Rheumaptera hastate*) at Irton Pike near Santon Bridge in 2016, although I personally failed to find any in 2017 despite searching the same area. This UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priority species is also known from south Cumbrian mosses but has undergone significant declines nationally in the past 50 years.

Two north-western coastal sites, Dubmill Point and a private garden in Salta, stand out as having yielded some excellent records including Mullein Wave (*Scopula marginepunctata*), Netted Pug (*Eupithecia venosata*), Shaded Pug (*Eupithecia subumbrata*), Dark Tussock (*Dicallomera fascelina*), Minor Shoulder-knot (*Brachylomia viminalis*), Bordered Sallow (*Pyrrhia umbra*) and Sand Dart (*Agrotis ripae*), with Coast Dart (*Euxoa cursorial*) also recorded in the area in 2010. Further south, Scarce Footman (*Eilema complana*) and Small Rufous (*Coenobia rufa*) have recently recorded from Drigg, and Thrift Clearwing (*Pyropteron muscaeformis*) has been confirmed as still present at St Bees Head in 2013 and 2017, the first records since 1930.



My own garden in St Bees village proved productive over a two-year period despite frequent unfavourable conditions for trapping. More than 300 species were recorded in that time, including several previously unknown in the area such as Figure of Eighty (*Tethea ocellaris*), Scarce Footman (*Eilema complana*), Poplar Grey (*Subacronicta megacephala*), Feathered Ranunculus

Figure of Eighty (*Polymixis lichenea*), Short-cloaked Moth (*Nola cucullatella*) and Green Silver-lines (*Pseudoips prasinana*). A Red Underwing (*Catocala nupta*) was also attracted to a house light in the village in 2013.

The scrubby woodland at the west end of Ennerdale Water does not at first glance appear very exciting but has proven to be a reliably exciting trap site and never fails to yield unexpected records including the likes of Scalloped Hook-tip (*Falcaria lacertinaria*), Scarce Prominent (*Odontosia Carmelita*), Barred Rivulet (*Perizoma bifaciata*), Lilac Beauty (*Apeira*

syringaria), Square Spot (*Paradarisa consonaria*) (a first for vice county 70) and Anomalous (*Stilbia anomala*). Devon Carpet (*Lampropteryx otregiata*) is common at this site and firmly established in west Cumbria, having been expanding northwards in the UK at pace.



The mixed woodland of the National Trust-owned Lanthwaite Wood features mixed woodland including mature oaks, and in 2017 a colony of

Thrift Clearwing Beautiful Snout (*Hypena crassalis*) were discovered, another first record for VC70. Pine Beauty (*Panolis flammea*) was a more expected find and a species scarcely recorded in west Cumbria.

A range of other miscellaneous inland sites have seen records of Clay Triple-lines (*Cyclophora linearia*), White Satin Moth (*Leucoma salicis*), Silky Wainscot (*Chilodes maritima*) and Garden Dart (*Euxoa nigricans*). All species with very few local records. Even the tiny (5.3 Hectare) Hollas Moss, surrounded by barren farmland, was discovered to hold Marsh Pug (*Eupithecia pygmaeata*) in 2016 in which year a Blackneck (*Lygephila pastinum*) larva was also found. The latter was also recorded in Whitehaven in 2017, providing further evidence of recent range expansion northward.

Marsh Pug



In practice what does this all mean though? Well it's exciting and rewarding to find a moth where it has not been previously recorded, but there are greater implications. New records of common, rare and unrecorded species continue to fill gaps in knowledge which is very important from a conservation perspective. In the past,



additions to the moth species known from west Cumbria were almost all likely a consequence of under-recording, but there are probably some genuine cases of range expansions of species which are known to be spreading northwards. This leads neatly into the topic of using moths as indicators of climate change and habitat health. It's probably fair to say that any species expanding northwards is most

likely able to due to climate change – but conversely what effect does this have on species which have evolved to occupy colder climates. Are they now struggling? Continued efforts of recorders in Cumbria and beyond can help us to understand the effects of climate change as well as habitat changes and population dynamics in general.

Nigel Voden

Work Parties in West Cumbria.

West Cumbria has an absolute wealth of wildlife sites but is still very much under-recorded and worryingly not much, if any, of the richest habitat is protected in any way. Conservation groups have historically never been as active in the west either, possibly because membership of



such groups is very low there. **That however in my opinion is not the point!** The point is that it is the wildlife and the habitat which is important, not the size of the membership. As a result Butterfly Conservation Cumbria have over the last few years been trying to conserve habitat and key wildlife species on some of the best areas particularly along the west Cumbrian coastline along with spectacular areas such as Ennerdale although that valley is not the focus of this article.

Along the coastline habitat work has been done at Maryport and in Workington, the latter in conjunction with the Workington Nature Partnership volunteers. Our main focus is in protecting 'core' colonies of Small Blue butterflies whose numbers have declined rapidly over the last two decades mainly due to habitat loss through re-development or by lack of management. At least we have a voice to be listened to now as far as planners are concerned and although being successful overall is not guaranteed by any means our voice is being heard and I'm certain media attention is chaffing at the bit to support us if needs be. Our strategy is not confrontation however but sound persuasion and in some cases mitigation can be the best way to achieve a win/win situation. At the present time however we can not afford to lose yet another 'core' colony of Small Blues.



The Workington Nature Partnership managed by Raegan Blacker with her regular volunteers Midge, Hugh, Mike, Elaine, Greg and others work along with myself in managing the two remaining 'core' sites in Workington, Oldside and an area of the old steelworks site which Persimmon Homes have agreed to leave alone for wildlife and the Small Blue in particular. We have had several work parties at each of those sites this last winter but our work is not just for butterflies but also for flora, birds and other wildlife altogether. We clear ditches, clear scrub re-growth, strim coarse grasses, get rid of rubbish including fly tipping and collect/plant more wildflower seed when necessary. Other sites worked on are at Maryport harbour and in March we plan work on Derwent How slagbanks.

My thanks go to Raegan and her troops for all the hard work they put in to help us when they already have their hands full looking after their other 'open space' area of Workington
Steve Doyle such as Siddick Pond and Harrington Rezza.

Getting more out of your interest in butterflies and moths: Part 2

The following is a further personal selection of wide-ranging ideas on how you may 'get more' out of your interest in butterflies and moths and our countryside. The list below is not in any particular order and as I listed 15 points in our last newsletter it starts at 16!

[16] Look at additional web sites [additional to BC and UK Butterflies] to broaden your conservation and countryside interests. For example national conservation groups of interest include.....The RSPB, The BTO, The Wetland and Wildlife Trust, The British Dragonfly Society, Bug Life, Bat Conservation Trust, The Woodland Trust, The Wildlife Trust and the National Trust. All have interesting websites and some offer free e-newsletters.

Also you may wish to join and receive a range of benefits including regular newsletters/magazines.

[17] Seek out more local conservation bodies that may well offer local talks, field trips, work parties, social events and newsletters. These include Cumbria Wildlife Trust [and its local support groups], Carlisle, Cockermouth, Kendal, Grange and Arnside Natural History Societies and RSPB and NT local support groups. In particular for an extra £6.00 join the Lancashire, Yorkshire or NE Branch of BC. For MOTHS look on the web for details of the 'Cumbria Moth Group', the 'Lancashire Moth Group' and 'Yorkshire Moths'.

Note there will be other similar societies near you and if you do not find them on the internet ask friends and visit your local library where they will have lists of societies and contacts. Also note The Wildlife Trust, the National Trust and the RSPB will have local activities and volunteer groups eg the excellent CWT 'Whats on Guide'.



[18] Other memberships/magazine subscriptions of interest include 'Atrops'...a very high quality magazine devoted to moths, butterflies and dragonflies, 'British Wildlife'....again very well produced and bi-monthly with regular updates on Butterflies and moths and 'The Bulletin' produced by the Amateur Entomological Society. Some memberships/magazines can be expensive!.....so treat someone to a great Christmas present!

[19] Join a local botany group.....not only will you learn much about plants and flowers but you will be able to map local caterpillar food plants.....eg you could map out all the local Elm and especially Wych Elm that may still host an unrecorded colony of White-

letter hairstreak. Botanists are also brilliant at helping find eggs and caterpillars and can greatly help with advice on habitat restoration.

[20] Buy a butterfly net and collecting containers from a lepidopterist suppliers...there are several eg Anglian Supplies and Watkins and Doncaster. You only need a licence from Natural England if you plan to catch rare/endangered species..... i would ask that all netted insects are released close to where caught unless they are species that you can find in most gardens. Use the special containers for observation and identification and for enthusing others! If you know others who already use a net then they will help with best practice.

[21] If you love art and have the finance then invest in a beautiful natural history art work. For example the butterfly pictures of Richard Lewington and Richard Tratt [both on line] are superb but if you contact the 'Society of Wildlife Artists' you will be amazed at the beauty, quality and variety of art.... go to the Rutland Bird Fair in August and visit their marquee! [The whole Bird Fair is a great wildlife experience.]

[22] Find out what your local council is doing to help protect our butterflies and wildlife. Some are very environmentally aware and others are not! Do they have a council ecologist? Does their Highways/Transport department manage hedge rows, trees, verges and roundabouts in nature friendly ways? Their environmental department should be able to tell you/show you their plans to enhance bio-diversity. For example do they know where road side colonies of butterflies that need more sensitive management are located? Do they follow Sarah Raven's advice to local authorities? [She fronted a TV series on how councils could/should do more to encourage wild flowers and wildlife friendly planting.]

[23] Help educate and entertain others in a love of natural history. If you like photography and are comfortable with 'public speaking' then put together a power point presentation and give talks to societies and others. If you need help to get started 'shadow' someone else and seek advice on eg the technology or information required. It can be great fun and very satisfying.

[24] Find out more about recording butterflies and transect data.....both to provide you with information on species and to encourage you to do transect recording. Again 'shadow' someone who is already doing a transect but look on the 'UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme' web site.....from their home page click on 'About' then on the UK map, then on England [the cursor over London], then on Cumbria then on one of the many existing transects, then on 'species count' to see all the data on butterflies recorded at this site since the transect started in 1989!.....beware the decline reported in rare species can be depressing!....but shows why I hope you will get more involved in conservation.

[25] Attend BC national events.....you can always car share! The 50th Anniversary National Members Day is in Nottingham on 10-11th November 2018 and Scotland has a fantastic

Members Day on 6th Oct 2018- both free to attend. Also look out for the Moth Recorders Day and the separate Butterfly Recorders Day which are both usually held in Birminghamthis year the moth event was held at the end of January and the butterfly event in the later part of March. Both are excellent and reasonably priced....details for 2019 will be posted on the BC website later in the year. [For a more local event the Martin Mere Bird Fair held each November is well worth attending.....but do not forget to attend our own BC Members day this summer....details in this newsletter.]

[26] Finally GET MORE INVOLVED IN YOUR CUMBRIA BRANCH OF BC.... we need your help with membership, recording, web site management, committee work, conservation work parties, publicity, fundraising etc....please contact me or one of the committee to discuss how you could get more involved in helping us all to enjoy our butterfly and moth rich countryside.

If i have provoked some thoughts and hopefully actions from the last two newsletters on this subject then you will get more out of your love of butterflies, moths and our rich and varied countryside.

Chris Winnick

A PUZZLE - Presented by a Vapourer moth.

On July 7th 2017 we were visited by a cousin. As she stepped out of her car she spied a very small bristly creature on her trouser leg. Knowing my interests she moved very slowly and carefully until I could collect it into a suitable container. Consultation with "Caterpillars of the British Isles" confirmed that it was the larva of a Vapourer moth and I decided to try to rear it to adulthood, feeding it on damson shoots from our garden. It was covered in bristles, including a row of orange yellow tufts like miniature



shaving brushes along its back and an extra-long pair of black ones in front. Although small, when disturbed it assumed a very threatening posture, appearing to rear up, turning these black tufts into legs or pincers which might cause a small predator to think twice. The

Vapourer is one of those moths whose females are wingless and I had never seen one, so I hoped that my caterpillar would turn out to be female. Before its final moult the caterpillar spun a loose silken cocoon on its food plant which incorporated most of the tufts of bristles, doubtless deterring any possible predators. This was complete by July 7th and it was impossible then to see exactly



when pupation took place. To my great joy the adult emerged on August 10th – a great fat wingless female. I had never seen a male vapourer here in Kendal, but in hope I left the female, still sitting on her old cocoon, in our open porch hoping that she would attract a mate. On the morning of Aug. 14th I went out to move the female out onto our damson tree, and as I approached a male flew off and I was able to catch it and put it into a large sweetie jar, but after a few feeble flaps of its wings it landed on its back and perished. It was clearly exhausted by its



efforts, because by the next morning the female had laid 7 eggs, while still sitting on its old cocoon. By Aug. 20th she had laid in excess of 200 eggs without moving, and she then laid a further 200 eggs a few inches away, after which I moved her onto the damson tree.

There she laid a further half dozen eggs before disappearing, perhaps eaten by one of our numerous tits.

I'm still puzzled about how Vapourers are distributed, if the females cannot fly and so lay their eggs, where they themselves have grown up?

I have heard it said that sometimes the males fly off with the females while still mating, but in my observed case this did not happen, and in fact the male was a puny little thing compared with the great fat female stuffed with unlaidd eggs and I very much doubt whether he could have managed.



Any ideas?



Male Vapourer

John Mounsey

HIGH BROWN FRITILLARIES.....

..... IN NORTH WEST ENGLAND

In North-West England High Brown Fritillaries are at a cross-road. There are still over twenty HBF colonies straddling the North Lancashire-South Cumbria border but over the last 20 years numbers have fallen by more than 50% in Cumbria and by 90% on Lancashire sites. We know that most sites are in clusters forming 'meta-populations' where adults can fly from one site to another. Also it is likely that at least some of the clusters are still just within range of each other to help maintain genetic strength. Given this situation why have HBF numbers fallen so far and can conservation work help keep this magnificent and endangered butterfly in the NorthWest?



From south to north the clusters or 'meta-populations' that remain are

[1]WARTON CRAG to GAIT BARROWS NNR including Yealand Allotment and Butterfly Conservation reserve MYER'S ALLOTMENT.

Conservation work at Warton Crag has been managed by the Lancashire Wildlife Trust, the RSPB and the Arnsdale and Silverdale AONB as they each have responsibilities over parts of this very large and wonderfully diverse limestone upland. Much excellent work has been achieved and all work closely with Butterfly Conservation, Bill Grayson [conservation cattle grazing], Natural England and Lancashire University to give fritillary habitat restoration a high priority. After recent success on parts of Warton Crag to create good breeding habitat for Pearl-bordered fritillary all three conservation groups have been meeting to discuss coordinated bracken management programmes aimed at countering excessive grass growth and resultant reduction in both violet cover and suitable 'egg-laying cover'. [A mix of violet, dry organic litter, bracken litter, moss, stone and bare earth is needed for egg laying.]

At Myer's Allotment reserve warden Dave Wrigley and his team of Lancashire Branch volunteers have transformed this once scrubbed over mix of grassland and woodland into an excellent butterfly reserve. Low numbers of High Brown, Dark Green and Small Pearl bordered fritillaries are occasionally seen here but this site is becoming isolated from others. Myer's is now under Countryside Stewardship and with further suitable habitat creation planned here and on many nearby sites [where working partnerships with land owners are being developed] this will encourage connectivity.



Gait Barrows NNR, Marble Quarry [private site] and Yealand Allotment are all High Brown sites within reach of each other and Myer's Allotment. Here the concern is that despite outstanding conservation work at Gait Barrows by Natural England volunteers and further work by BC volunteers at the latter two sites High Brown and other fritillary numbers have



continued to fall. Related to habitat and food plant availability it is clear that climate and micro-climate factors are at work. A run of long wet mild winters has compounded the problem. These factors are difficult to manage however without conservation work expertly led by Rob Petley-Jones and John Osborne at Gait Barrows and by BC's Martin Wain on other local sites we could have already lost the High Brown in Lancashire.

[2] ARNSIDE KNOTT including Heathwaite. This classic National Trust butterfly site is just across the Cumbrian border. Although no longer hosting Pearl-bordered fritillary or Duke of Burgundy it is still home to High Brown, Dark-Green and Small Pearl-bordered fritillary and remains one of only two Scotch Argus sites outside Scotland. As NT warden Craig McCoy leads regular volunteer work parties to maintain butterfly and wildlife friendly habitats creating a mix of woodland, scrub and herb rich grassland. Cattle grazing is also used to reduce invasive scrub and maintain a grass, bracken and violet mosaic. On this large site with its outstanding views over Morecambe Bay and the Lakeland hills there are at least three HBF breeding areas sufficient to create its own 'meta-population'. Despite excellent management High Brown and other fritillary numbers are significantly down however in the right place it is still possible to see 4-6 HBF on a sunny day in July.

[3] WHITBARROW, HELSINGTON BARROWS together with HAMPSFELL.

Whitbarrow is a large and magnificent upland 'slab' of carboniferous limestone hosting five or six colonies of HBF: sites include woodland margins and clearings along the base of the scarp slope facing west and the dip slope facing east together with more open grasslands sites along the north-south 'spine.' Cumbria Branch together with BC's David Wainwright and Martin Wain work closely with Cumbria Wildlife Trust, The Forestry Commission, the Lyth Valley and Crosthwaite landowners association, the Stanley Estates and other landowners and farmers on many of these sites to help maintain good HBF habitat. Management varies from contract coppice rotation and volunteer grass cutting and raking in the CWT managed Howe Ridding reserve to BC contract and volunteer tree thinning, scrub clearance, glade widening and connectivity work on Farrer's Allotment.

The limestone ridge that is Helsington Barrows and Scout Scar run parallel to the east across the Lyth valley. HBF were widespread across this grassland dominated linear ridge

but in recent years have only appeared in low numbers in the Helsington Barrows area. Threat from scrub invasion is limited by conservation grazing, thin stony soil and exposure but violet cover has reduced leaving this colony too reliant on stray HBF from Whitbarrow.

Hampsfell is another expanse of upland limestone that runs roughly east-west from Grange-Over-Sands to Lindale. With two or three HBF 'hot-spots' in sheltered grassland areas adjacent to woodlands it is not clear if this forms an isolated 'meta-population' or if there is contact with Whitbarrow 3 miles to the east. The tenant farmer grazes beef cattle and is fully supportive of BC volunteer work party scrub clearance. He has recently gone into a countryside stewardship agreement that will help keep the HBF 'flag flying' on this delightfully scenic but little known site.

[4] HOLME PARK QUARRY, HOLMEPARK LNR, HOLME STINTED PASTURES, HOLME FELL and HUTTON ROOF. This large upland plateau of limestone grassland with its outstanding limestone pavement, scars and scree slopes also plays host to swathes of bracken, woodland copses, hawthorn and hazel scrub and both disused and active quarries. Despite its geological, botanical and ornithological importance it is often overlooked being south-east of Kendal and to the east of the M6 motorway. There has been little recent butterfly management around the perimeter of Holmepark Quarry or on the 'central island' which is also good for HBF. This active commercial quarry is not open to the public without permission from the manager. Holme Fell [NT] and Holme Stinted Pastures are adjacent to the quarry and provide further breeding and patrolling areas with HBF freely moving between colonies. Both sites are grazed and bracken managed and BC volunteers are working closely with the commoners on Holme Stinted Pastures.



HBF occasionally fly further east onto Hutton Roof; the LancelotClarke-Storth part of this site is expertly managed for fritillary and other butterflies by Andrew Walter and his team of CWT volunteers. Parts of this huge site also benefit from coppicing for charcoal. Unlike other 'meta-populations' of HBF in the North-West the 'barrier' effect of the motorway is likely to be a significant check to movement.

[5] THE WINSTER VALLEY including BARKBOOTH [CWT], LAMBHOWE and UNDERMILLBECK COMMON.

To the north of Whitbarrow calcareous limestones give way to acid Silurian slates and a rolling countryside of improved and unimproved pasture, woodland copses and bracken covered grassland and heath. The excellent Barkbooth CWT reserve is managed for HBF and other wildlife by Joe Murphy and his team of volunteers who carry out regular scrub removal. Parts of the reserve have the right combination of bracken and violet needed as HBF breeding habitat while other parts are more suited to grass-loving species. Cattle

grazing is also an important management tool. There is little or no HBF management on adjacent or nearby sites but the mosaic of woods, bracken covered grassland and violet have kept HBF in the Winster valley when other sites have been lost.

[6] The north RUSLAND VALLEY including LINSTY WOOD and GRIZEDALE FOREST. This is the most northerly population of HBF and probably the most isolated. The landowner at Linsty Wood [private site] is in HLS to manage this site for HBF through bracken bruising and cattle grazing. Despite being a small and isolated site the violet cover under bracken has been excellent and sufficient to keep alive this important colony. It is possible that there is still some cross-over with HBF adults found 1-2 miles to the north in the Forestry Commission's Grizedale Forest. Without more detailed recording here it is difficult to establish HBF distribution but it is likely that forestry operations have kept habitat conditions dynamic with low numbers of HBF appearing in different parts of this vast mosaic of conifer plantation, cleared land, scrub, heath, grassland and marsh.

THE FUTURE.

There are common themes running through the above. HBF are under threat in the NorthWest and with climate, land use and habitat changes we should be prepared to modify and experiment with our conservation techniques. In addition many woodland sites in Cumbria and Lancashire have suffered through the cessation of coppicing while some grassland sites have either had too much or too little bracken management. Cattle grazing fine tuned to both site specifics and the needs of the HBF in all stages of its life-cycle can be a major benefit where bracken overlies violet. However in woodland sites the absence of traditional management has left a void that can only be partially filled by volunteer and contractor conservation; to do this most successfully conservation bodies need to work together and to work with land owners to target limited resources. Cumbria and Lancashire BC have been fortunate to benefit from the hard work and expertise provided by Dave Wainwright [BC Northern Officer] and Martin Wain [BC's Morecambe Bay Facilitation Officer] and will continue to work closely with our friends in the Wildlife Trust, Natural England, RSPB, NT, and with local conservation graziers. We are also delighted to have close links with Lancaster University and the superb student research that is already helping us understand more about our wonderful fritillary butterflies.

Chris Winnick

Who Likes a Challenge?

In recent years I have attempted to improve my knowledge and experience of what I consider to be very challenging butterfly species. Mountain Ringlet and Large Heath have been two prime candidates. I have to thank Martin Tordoff for his help and guidance in selecting sites to locate colonies of Mountain Ringlet that would be suitable for a novice like me. We



are talking here about our only ‘montane’ species and it operates at several hundred metres above sea level, generally in excess of 600 metres altitude.

Accessibility and weather conditions are a serious consideration in planning a trip. Suitable clothing and preparation for what might turn out to be sudden severe weather changes need to be taken into account. I carried out a prior recce for my locations having consulted the Met Office mountain weather forecasts beforehand for all my trips.

Locations I Managed to Visit					
Site	Gridref.	Final Altitude metres	Start Altitude metres	Number seen	Date
Irton Fell	NY137024	400	110	1	05 Jun 2015
Irton Fell	NY137024	400	110	137	01 Jul 2015
Honister Pass	NY215133	715	350	56	03 Jul 2015
Kidsty Pike Haweswater	NY458126	700	250	20	27 Jun 2015
Irton Fell	NY137024	400	110	50	04 Jun 2017
Honister Pass	NY215133	715	350	3	18 Jun 2017
Hartsop Dodd	NY415111	620	200	86	25 Jun 2017

Irton Fell is perfect for beginners. Serious fell-walkers would consider it to be ‘an afternoon stroll’ and not worthy of consideration? There is parking a mile or so east of Santon Bridge very close to the gradual ascent path. Sensible fell walking preparation and outdoor clothing still needed to be worn if you decide to visit. On arrival at the entrance gate to the open fell Small Coppers and Small Heaths can be immediately located. It should only be a short distance further to commence seeing the target species. Walking along the fell for several Kms is not too demanding but wet underfoot in places, until Wast Water comes into view below.

The other sites listed above are more challenging and to my mind more rewarding - Hartsop Dodd especially so. On my visit the cloudy cool conditions were fine for the steady ascent but cast doubt on the likely success of the venture. The satnav finally clocked in at 600 metres with an attendant sunny interval to reveal a handful of MR sightings. These were gradually built on over the succeeding 5 hours to achieve the 86 total indicated in the table above. A hugely successful day! I would also highly recommend Honister Pass /Grey Knotts. Good numbers of MR can be seen in the most scenic surroundings; Hay Stacks nearby with great views of Buttermere and Ennerdale Water below. Martin spurred me on to take up the challenge with the knowledge that most of these high altitude sites can seem daunting at first for beginners but less so when the starting points can already have gotten you half way there – Honister a case in point! Enjoy the challenge!

Tom Dunbar

'It's That Lapsed Lepidopterist Again.....'



.....but sadly more like the lapsed article writer I promised not to be in Newsletter 30 – my last offering. Oh dear! I shall use the same excuses I did then: work (occasionally) and domestic life (daughter now 8 & two guinea pigs), but add to those Storm Desmond (relocated from Braithwaite for a year) with ongoing recovery work as I write.

However, re-location presented the opportunity for a new moth trapping venue at our base in Portinscale (114 species - Angle-barred, Slender, Valerian Pugs, Bordered Beauty) and with the Hedges Grey Square Challenge gauntlet thrown down (NY12 & NY43 were my adopted areas), 2015 & 2016 saw my trappings return a fair count of species, some of note.

2017 has proved up and down, with the weather casting a downer on much of the 'good' months and the diary interfering with a lot of the unseasonal milder moments. My encounters with the day-flying branch of our favourite insects, even the common ones, are becoming rarer and that is not just because of my less frequent field trips. Orange-tips had a joyous spring last year; Tortoiseshells a glorious autumn in 2016 (before their attempted garage hibernation brought that to an abrupt end – 30+ wings scattered on the ground. Swallows had gone - I suspect Bats.); Red Admirals and Peacocks were bountiful on the Buddleia pre-Desmond in 2015 and dedicated trips to specific locations on sunny days still yielded some lovely Fritillary moments, but my average summer day, if such a day exists any more, has not been full of the 'Bright wings of Summer' in the last few years.

This paucity of Butterflies was put into sharp relief on our holiday to the Dordogne in August last year – meadows, roadside verges, woods, well everywhere it seemed – teeming with a myriad of Blues, Yellows, Whites, 'tails, 'streaks, 'illaries, Skippers, Admirals, Emperors, Oranges, Browns, Coppers..... I'm as exhausted typing the list as I was trying to photograph and identify them! It always puzzles me that for a nation not noted for it's strict observance of environmental legislation (let alone it's shooting & eating of very small birds!), France can boast such a diverse ecology. To underline that wealth of diversity – I recorded 181 moth species over six nights of trapping. Yes, I did risk several security alerts by packing my mercury vapour light bulb and electrics in my plane luggage! But once fixed to a barbecue on wheels with draped bedsheets behind, it resembled an early Dr. Who alien, delighted the French neighbours ("Ah les Anglais! Maniaques! Brexit – mais oui!") and I was able to feast my eyes on some beauties – Alchymist, Latin, Lobster, Orache, Blackneck, Black Arches, Rosy Footman, Pine Tree Lappet, Convolvulus, etc, etc.

That's not to say it's all boring doom back in Blighty. Species lists at my regular trap sites continue to grow with my garden in Braithwaite, despite post-Desmond neglect, still yielding the highest number – 251 species, Small Elephant Hawk & Greens, Frosted & Brindled added. Blackwood Farm is not far behind with August, Purple & September Thorns

showing, a single Heath Rustic on the Moss and a Small Purple-barred mixing in with the day-flying colony of Foresters. Dubwath Silver Meadows now has a list of 218 and continues to provide interesting specimens – Bulrush Wainscot, Clay Triple-lines, Lempke's Gold Spot, Red-necked Footman, Vestal, Yellow-barred Brindle. It boasts good colonies of Devon

Carpet, Small Seraphim and Valerian Pug. The Carpet and Pug had been classified as Nb, but I recorded these at all three sites and others. Similarly, the Cumbrian status of Squarespotted Clay is on the up, as I now have records from four locations in NY22.

Gary's challenge (Oh how we miss him!) saw me trapping at Latterhead in the west and Unthank in the east, boosting totals for those squares above the magic target of 100. Brindled Ochre, Grey Shoulder Knot & Devon Carpet in the west and Brown-spot Pinion, Dusky Thorn, Figure of Eight, Mouse and V Moth were all interesting records from the east. So with those targets in 'far away' places reached by the end of 2016, I returned last year to my home square to see what other undiscovered goodies lay in store. Lack of a generator means I can never be more than two (maybe three!) extension leads away from the mains, consequently I try and make friends only with people who have large gardens that back onto woods, fields, bogs etc. So with new acquaintances secured at Powter How in Thornthwaite, adjacent to Weightmans Wood in Keswick and at the other end of Braithwaite backing onto the How, I switched on.

One night in June and one in July at the first location attracted 267 moths of 77 species, including Dwarf Pug, Square-spotted Clay (3), Welsh Wave and 7,500 midges!! The Keswick spot only brought in 79 of 37 varieties on a cold July night, but Gold Spangle, Garden Tiger & Poplar Hawk kept the assembled Keswick Naturalists happy photographing. Ten days later they would have run out of film (or card space!) as the third new garden in Braithwaite revealed 80 species from 525(ish) specimens - a warm July night! Amongst the Emeralds – Grass, Large & Light; the Clays – Dotted, Ingrailed & Square-spotted; and Ys – Scarce Silver, Beautiful & Plain Golden, there was a Carpet I didn't recognise. Secured, identified and photographed I released the Cloaked Carpet onto the Buddleia where it spent a while feeding in the sun. Mmm.....Cloaked Carpet.....I'll just check.....Oh.....no records for Cumbria? I'll just contact MT and maybe Liz Still and perhaps Tullie House. No records for Cumberland and Westmorland either... since 1824! That'll be a 'county first' then – ooh well done me! But was it from an undiscovered colony, a lone wanderer or a climate warmed species on the move like it's Devon relative? I shall revive my acquaintance with the garden owners next



July and see what happens.

Well, that's a precis of my entire life since my last article, so until another three years has elapsed I'll sign off – BUT before I do, a very big thankyou to a certain Mr.Doyle, who has not only sailed this Newsletter ship for it's entire journey, often filling in for lapsed article writers (oops!), but was also

the person who introduced me to lepidopteral life in Cumbria ten years ago, taking me to Butterfly hotspots around the county, acquainting me with the intimate life of his precious Marsh Frits and helping out with digital & technical help when I needed it. A solid fellow all round and one whose boundless energy has been a great asset to the Cumbria branch over the years and now it's his grand-children's turn to benefit from a bit more of his valuable time – well done Steve.

Pete MacQueen

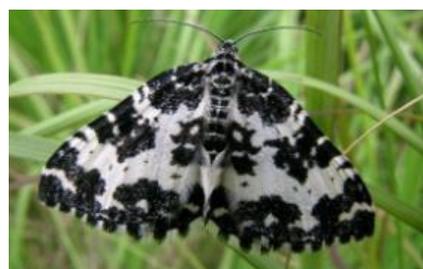
NETTED CARPET MOTH EVENTS IN CUMBRIA 2018

We at Butterfly Conservation's Cumbria Branch, in partnership with the National Trust and Brantwood Estate Coniston, are hosting events on three consecutive weekends in July / August 2018 where we hope to showcase the iconic Netted Carpet Moth (*Eustroma reticulata*) in its striking adult form. The moth is one of relatively few species using a single larval food plant, in this case Touch-me-not-Balsam (*Impatiens noli-tangere*), our only native balsam and with strongholds not too far from some of Cumbria's lake shores. Many volunteers who have helped with the late summer larval counts of this species over the years have never had chance to set eyes on the adult moth. So we hope to rectify this in 2018! Our three events will take place on the last weekend of July and the first two of August, in each case with an evening netting and trapping session on the Friday, followed by opening of traps on the Saturday morning. The events will be held at NT sites Great Wood, Derwent Water and St Catherine's Footprint Centre, Windermere, and at Brantwood, Coniston. Of course we can't absolutely guarantee that the moth will show up but past recording sessions at the three sites have all shown positive results, and many other interesting moth species should be present too. Guests will be welcome at either evening or morning sessions or both. Full details appear in this newsletter's **Summer 2018 Field Trips and Events** section and on our Cumbria Branch website at:

<http://www.cumbriabutterflies.org.uk/events/>.

Martin Tordoff

**BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION &
RUSLAND HORIZONS LANDSCAPE
PARTNERSHIP SCHEME:
WINGS IN THE WOODS PROJECT**



Butterfly Conservation is working with the Rusland Horizons Landscape Partnership Scheme on this exciting project to restore and enhance the unique landscape of the area in the south of the Lake District, between Coniston and Windermere. The scheme is community led and funded by Heritage Lottery focussing on

the wooded landscape. Projects include woodland management and crafts training volunteers and apprentices, archaeology and historical research, a Greenwood Trail and Woodlands and Wildlife for red squirrels, dormice, birds, and butterflies and moths.

The Wings in the Woods project, led by Butterfly Conservation is in its third and final year, and we are looking to consolidate the surveying, monitoring and habitat enhancement work of the last two years to ensure the future of the rare butterflies and moths found in this under surveyed area.

As well as surveying new areas for butterflies such as the High Brown Fritillary, Small Pearl bordered Fritillary and White Letter-hairstreak we hope that trained and experienced volunteers from the Cumbria Butterfly Conservation Branch and Rusland Horizons will take on regular monitoring of the known populations. This year we have interest from a number of University students who are keen to research the butterflies and moths in this area, looking at survey and recording methods, and habitat use.

Habitat creation by planting of foodplants such as primroses for the Duke of Burgundy and Touch-me-not-Balsam for the Netted Carpet moth will also be continued.

All are encouraged to visit this beautiful and relatively undiscovered area, either joining in with surveys, monitoring , workshops and talks or just making a note of all butterfly and moth sightings when out for a walk.... especially around Grizedale Forest. Please send records to me for the Rusland Horizons area (see website for a map www.ruslandhorizons.org) hsmith@butterfly-conservation.org as well as to CBC sightings.

Hilary Smith

AN ANNIVERSARY LOOK AT BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION THROUGH 50 YEARS OF 'BUTTERFLY MAGAZINE': THE EARLY YEARS [Part one of a three part series]

I have just heard that Cumbria has the highest membership retention rate of any branch in BC....that means many of us have received BC's 'Butterfly Magazine' for a long time! I have been a member for 30 years but recently was given a collection of early issues that make fascinating reading.



In the early years BC was 'The British Butterfly Conservation Society' [BBCS] and the 'magazine' started as a typed foolscap 'News Sheet' [usually 2-3 pages] of 'periodic' occurrence. Issue No. 2 dated July 1969 is particularly revealing: It states the 'societies objects' as [1] 'To save.....all species....by conserving them in the wild.....or by breeding numbers in captivity and, where practicable, re-introducing them in natural habitats.' [2] 'To sponsor further scientific...research in conservation.....'[3] 'To foster interest generally by educating.....in problems concerning conservation of these butterflies'. Founding

officers were President Peter Scott, Chairman Thomas Frankland, Secretary Robert Goodden, Technical Officer Robin Ford and Information Officer Andrew McCall. An appeal was launched for more members and for members who would be willing to become subscriptions secretary, news sheet editor or serve on an 'advisory panel' to help members rear butterflies for suitable release sites. Membership was £1.00 per annum [10 shillings for juniors] or £10.00 for life membership!

By news sheet 3 membership had grown but funding had become an issue....'Like caterpillars organisations have a voracious appetite, and in order to survive need feeding....with funds'. Articles, book reviews and recommended field study courses featured and a request that if you were having trouble identifying black and brown hairstreak eggs you should send them to a Mr J.A.Thomas at Monks Wood Experimental station. My first membership list is dated June 1970 and lists 320 members.....together with eleven vice-presidents that include Dr. Miriam Rothschild, I.Hugh Newman and Dennis Watkins-Pitchford. Ken Wilmott had become the societies 'co-ordinator' with regard to breeding and livestock release. There were eleven on the 'Advisory Panel [mainly breeding, horticultural and photographic advice] and twenty-five 'Habitat Advisors'.....our local being Mr. M. Milne of Keswick.

Jill Harris is now news sheet editor and in issue 5 the Large Blue and its 'imminent threat of extinction' is raised. Robert Goodden notes that many entomologists are prevented from doing detailed work on the species due to the need to keep ants with the larvae. However he remained hopeful that his own work with French Large Blue would be successful. Members were invited to send in articles for print and increasingly news sheets reflect members' interests in a wide range of topics: butterfly habitats in the Isle of Wight, the 'destruction' of woodland butterfly sites by the forestry commission, the breeding of Holly Blue and why it would be a good idea for members to 'send in the date of their first recordings with an indication of numbers recorded during the season'.

The first major change came with issue No. 9 [April 1972] with the emergence of a new style 'Quarterly News'. Complete with glossy blue cover and 8 sides of A5 stapled pages [plus an 8 page 'Conservation Programme insert] its layout was more 'professional' and easier to read. The glossy cover lasted for only three issues as did the word 'Quarterly' in the title. The dominant Large Blue Butterfly motif on the cover lasted just a further two issues until No. 16 was published in January 1976. However these five issues saw an increase to 20 pages with members sending in articles on the large blue, butterfly gardening, hatching pupae, the decline of the silver spotted skipper and numerous letters from around the UK. Mr K Johnson states that in 1972 he 'bred and released a total of 2,232 Small Tortoiseshells, 469 Peacocks, 21 Red Admirals and 25 Commas. These were released in appropriate localities.' Articles were also produced by officers of BBCS including a major initiative to encourage 'Habitat Surveying' and another on 'Conservation in Grassland' with prominence given on who members could contact for conservation advice.

However early issues were dominated by articles from members..... with limited reference to moths. The conservation insert categorised species as [1] Nearly Extinct [Large Blue] [2] In Danger

[including Large Tortoiseshell, Black Hairstreak and Chequered Skipper.] [3] Local Species [including Wood White, Purple Emperor and perhaps surprisingly Purple Hairstreak.....due to 'tree felling' and [4] Species Restricted by Location or Habitat [including Swallowtail and Mountain Ringlet.] Membership cards were to be issued and these would be required to gain entry to future AGM's that would take place at the Victory Services Club in London.

BBCS News No. 11 announced a change of address with vice chairman Robert Goodden stating that 'until now my wife Rosemary and myself have carried out the administration of the society from my office at Worldwide Butterflies Ltd. Mr. Tatham, our Chairman, has now agreed to deal with this at his home address in Quorn, Leicestershire.' News No. 15 announced the setting up of a 'Conservation Committee' to promote habitat surveying, recording and a breeding programme. Lepidoptera distribution maps from Monks Wood were highlighted complete with poor photo-copied reproductions and Ken Wilmott reported on the demise of the English Chequered Skipper. The finance report showed that in 1973-74 BBCS had income from 109 life members, 266 adult members and 30 junior members providing an income of £664.00 [out of a total income of £1,285.76] Expenditure was £666.34 giving a surplus of £619.42.



BBCS News now took a step back. No.16 came out in January 1976 followed by No.17 nine months later. Issues lost their coloured card cover and after Jill Harris stood down as news editor had shrunk to just 8 A5 pages.....on one 'concertina' folded paper. Acting editor Robert Goodden pleaded 'editors are always crying out for more articles...because without them there will be no 'News' and it is a necessary organ of communication

between members'. This cry was heard and with David Robertson now editor 'News' No. 18 was back to 20 pages with clear layout and uniform type face. There were various articles on the summer heat of 1976 making it 'officially the best year for butterflies since 1947'. However there was also concern that by late summer 'whole hillsides were baked brown' with the resultant death of many eggs. This issue was the first to be almost sub-divided into letters, sightings, habitat and junior sections.

The next ten years of BBCS 'News' were produced twice a year. [April and October] Although a less frequent production than earlier page numbers increased considerably even reaching 74 A5 pages by issue 26 dated April 1981. Reports from society officials were given greater prominence with the first 8 pages of issue 19 occupied by reports from the editor, chairman, treasurer, health and safety officer, vice –chairman, publicity officer and librarian. Letters, species reports and the junior section featured strongly and with membership growing there

were 9 pages listing new members. Issue 20 advertised the BBCS's 10th anniversary celebration as an open day at Worldwide Butterflies near Sherborn with lunch at the nearby Little Chef restaurant. I was struck by an article in issue 21 in which Mr. Wildridge reports that while walking in a Buckinghamshire wood looking at Peal-bordered fritillary and Wood White he discovered an un-recorded colony of Marsh Fritillary. Those were the days!

Chris Winnick [To be continued.]

iRecord Butterflies – a must-have app on your phone



iRecord Butterflies is a free app that will guide you through the identification of any butterfly that you see in the UK and allow you to add your sighting to millions of other valuable records that inform the work of Butterfly Conservation. It's a fantastic tool for identification even if you don't use it for recording. Highly recommended!

[Download the app for free](#)

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1) Identify your sighting

You can compare a live specimen or your own photo with those from the app's extensive image library, filter species by colour, pattern and size, and see distribution maps and identification tips for each butterfly. It's brilliant!

Tom Dunbar

Pre-Publication book Offer: The Pug Moths of Cheshire, Lancashire and Cumbria by Brian Hancock.

This excellent all colour paperback book written by Morecambe Bay member and pug moth expert Brian Hancock is available to order at a pre-publication price of £12.00(will be £15.00). To order contact me by email asap. We hope to have further details and sample pages on our website soon.

Chris Winnick

CUMBRIA BRANCH OFFICERS Branch Chairman



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Assisted in N. Lancs and Cumbria by Martin Wain

...note from the new editor...

Hello to everyone and thanks for all the articles I have received. Please keep them coming for the next newsletter, deadline the end of July. If they could be in Calibri font size 14 that would be lovely!

Please forgive any odd layouts, spelling or other inconsistencies...I will get the hang of it eventually!
..... **Karen McLellan**

More Cumbria moths to look out for



Argent & Sable



Jersey Tiger



Broad-Bordered Bee Hawk-moth



Narrow-Bordered Bee Hawk-moth



Silver Y

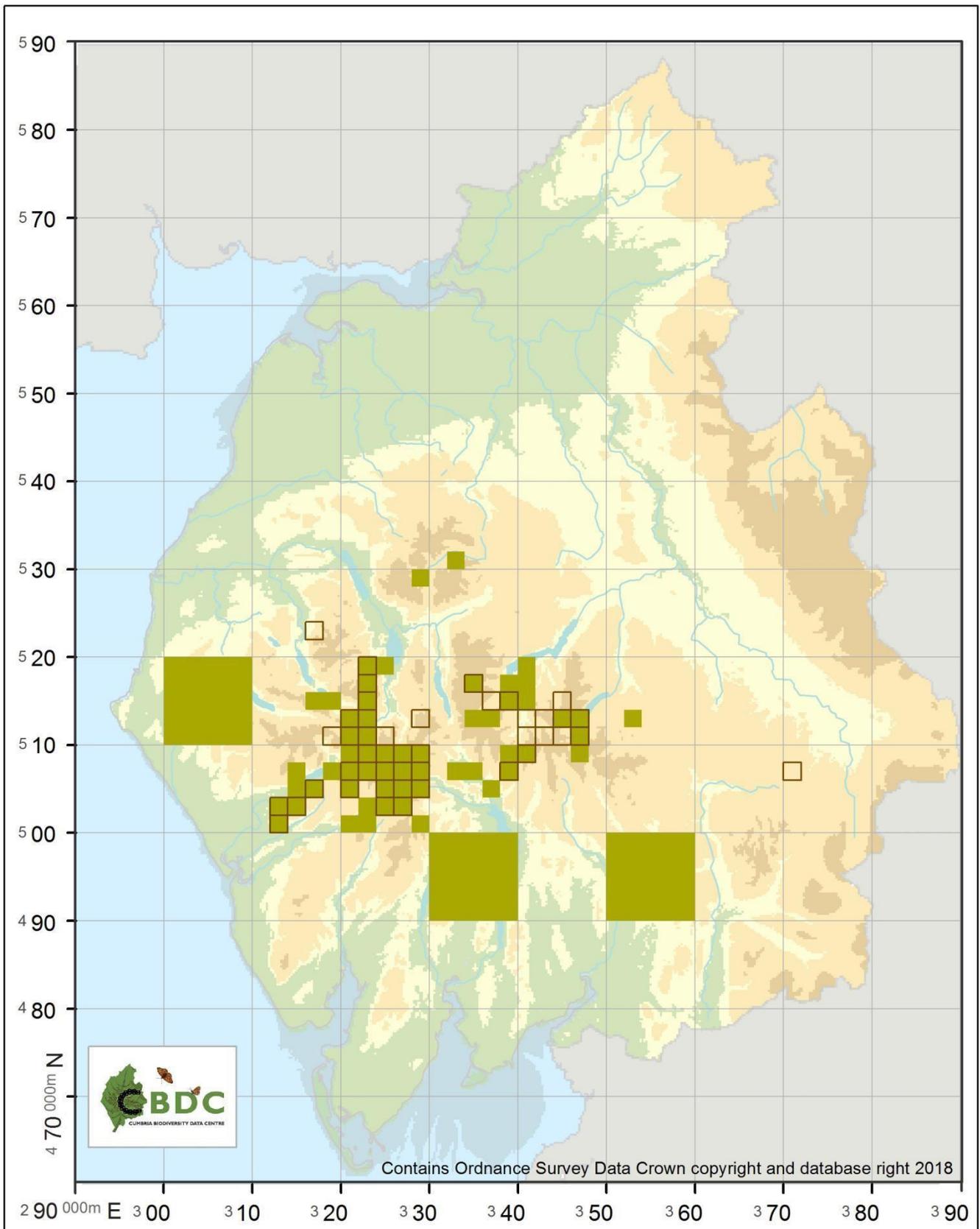


Six-spot Burnet



Dark Bordered Beauty

Striped Hawk-moth



Mountain Ringlet
Erebia epiphron

- Pre 2000
- Post 2000