

**WARWICKSHIRE BRANCH
MOTH EQUIPMENT**

2006 - THE BUSIEST YEAR YET



See Page 20

Alan Prior & Val Weston

Photographs by Roy Ledbury
Cover Photograph by Brian Goodey



Blood-vein



Maiden's Blush



Burnished Brass



Common Fan-foot



Great Oak Beauty



Lilac Beauty



Antler Moth



Agraphila latistria



Black Arches



Lobster Moth



Lunar-spotted Pinion



Puss Moth



Satin Lutestring



Sprawler



Peppered Moth

Introduction

As usual, the weather played its part in dictating events during 2006. After a miserable start to the year, everything changed in June. A superb couple of months followed with some very late nights (mornings!) spent counting moths. Thankfully, the weather went downhill in August as exhaustion was taking its toll! A good year for migrants peaked in a spectacular September. Recording remained good until mid November when a succession of very windy south-westerly low pressure systems crossed the country. Overall, it was a year of the normal highs and lows but they were a little more extreme.

As always, we hope you enjoy reading about our adventures.

January

Being afflicted with MWS (that's Mothing Withdrawal Syndrome to you!), Alan was not a pretty sight (is he ever, we hear you cry?!) and so had decided to go out no matter what. A quick phone call got the permission required to visit Crown East Wood. On arrival, a Buzzard was being mobbed by a selection of Corvids. A quick look around the wood located the most sheltered spots from the nagging south westerly breeze. By five o'clock three traps were up and running. One of them was close to a large tree trunk and an inspection produced the first moth of the year as a pair of wings were being fluttered by the faint air flow. An adjacent trunk provided moth number two. After touring the wood looking on the trunks, a count of two **Chestnut** and a staggering 123 **Winter Moths** were found. The traps didn't do quite as well with a grand total of four moths!! However, a very enjoyable, if different, mothing experience had produced five species and blown some of the cobwebs away.

Alan's MWS was sent further into remission after a phone call from Patrick Clement. He was going to go mothing at Grafton Wood. As Alan felt a bit responsible, having talked him into doing this poorly recorded site, he felt he should go with him. Knowing there is absolutely no chance of driving over to the wood without the proper vehicle, Alan drove over to Patrick's and they went together in his truck. On arrival the ground was even too wet for that so plan B was swung into action. All the equipment was loaded on to a wheelbarrow and tied down. It was still a struggle as everything and everyone slipped and slid across the fields to the gate of the wood. On arrival, a moth showed up Patrick's rustiness at netting and all he got was a very muddy welly as he landed in a very deep puddle! At least our trip wouldn't be wasted as there were plenty of moths on the wing. The evening was uneventful until the trek back. Pushing a wheelbarrow along muddy tracks in the dark was bound to have its drawbacks - especially as it was nearly all uphill! In the end the teamwork paid off and we made it back to the car park via a very long route with everything and everyone intact. Our efforts had produced records of eight species with a very respectable count of 103 **Spring Usher**. Hopefully, the tracks will have dried a bit before our next visit.

Note: There was no birthday outing for Val this year. She said he would be hard pushed to better it this year so he didn't plan anything! That surprised her even more. Now you can all go 'Aaaahhh! What a shame!'

February

A period of bad weather meant that there was only one opportunity for a mothing trip in the month. Mervyn Needham had been expecting a call saying that Alan was coming over to Chaddesley Wood and another call to Roy Ledbury added another 'mad mother'! After everything was set up, Roy kept us entertained with a tale about him trying to collect his ordered Indian take-away from the Chinese take-away next door. It's the way he tells it, you

know! Alan's newly acquired Shieldbug ID chart came in handy as a Bronze Shieldbug was found in one of the traps.

A good evening concluded with eleven species being recorded. **Spring Usher** were most numerous (128) with **Pale Brindled Beauty** second with 84.

March

Early March saw Alan following his own motto of 'If you don't go, you don't know what you could have seen' by taking a trip back down to Crown East Wood. The rush hour traffic didn't help as it rained most of the journey. After driving across the field and parking, Alan wondered if he would make it back out of the field as it was so wet. That question would have to be answered later as there were traps to put up. During setting up a voice from nowhere said 'You must be the moth man.' Alan replied, 'You must be the badger man!' This was our first ever meeting after missing each other for years! As we record the moths, so our counterpart looks after the wood's badgers. With the traps now on, the moths started to arrive so he could show off a few. After an hour or so the 'badger man' left the 'moth man' to it. It proved a reasonable night with the first **Oak Beauty**, **Small** and **Common Quaker** of the year being amongst the sixteen species recorded.

It was over two weeks before the temperature was high enough to make a venture out worthwhile. On reaching Bromsgrove the rain was hammering down and it looked like our trip to Chaddesley Wood would be a washout. Mervyn was waiting at the gate and decided that Alan was totally mad. However, he sat and waited the rain out with Alan before saying he wasn't going to trap as he had to be up early in the morning. A polite way of saying 'Alan, you need your head examined!' He did say he would pop back later to see how he had done, though. As soon as the traps were on the moths came 'flooding' in. With the rain coming and going Alan was kept busy with the umbrellas. When Mervyn arrived back he was astonished to see how many moths were in the traps. He couldn't wait to get home and look at his own. In the end over 300 moths were recorded of 18 species. A good tally of 37 **March Moth** and the first **Twin-spotted Quaker** were a couple of them.

The following night Val finally made it out nothing. It was another damp one though and the Barclays umbrellas were in constant use. We managed to get reasonably sheltered in Ryton Wood and so still had plenty of moths to see. We had managed to talk Roy into joining us and Nigel Stone paid us a visit later in the evening. Most of our time was spent chatting in the cars but when it came to count up we had all done pretty well. A respectable 18 species were found with **Dotted Border**, **Small Brindled Beauty** and **Dark Chestnut** being amongst them.

After days of indecision, Patrick finally said he was going to Grafton Wood again, whatever! Alan joined him even though he knew exactly what was going to be involved in getting there! With the ground still too wet, the wheelbarrow was again pressed into service. After a long trek a suitably sheltered spot was found. The lovely sight of a Barn Owl flying around a clearing greeted them. After watching the owl until it disappeared, the traps were then put up. With only a brief early shower the constant round of traps always produced something new to find. By the end of the evening a very good 22 species had been recorded. Some of them were **Shoulder Stripe**, **Pine Beauty** and the first **Lead-coloured Drab** of the year.

The last day of March was the first of Val's holiday and a visit to Middleton Hall was on the agenda. When we arrived we found that Nigel was already up and running traps just behind the hall. We set up in an adjoining area. Later Harvey Skelcher arrived and he set up nearer the big lake on the other side of the hall. Also with us were John Bates and John Hoyle. The two 'Johns' are an entertaining double act who brighten up the dullest of evenings! They spent most of their time measuring our traps as they wanted to make some of their own. The

most important meeting tonight was when we ran into Bob, the caretaker. He opened up the toilets for us! This was our first visit of a regular series throughout the result of the year so, to have the 'Boss of the Keys' on your side early proved invaluable. A very enjoyable evening resulted in 17 species being recorded. Nice moths such as **Yellow Horned** and **Red Chestnut** were amongst them. The most shocking news was when Nigel told us that the **Small Quakers** were a new record for the 10km square!!

April

The first of the month saw plenty of 'fools' making their way to Chaddesley Wood for the first official meeting of the year. Mervyn was away so Patrick was on gate duty and he was already waiting when we arrived. Also bringing traps were Dave Grundy and Jack Watkins. It meant that Jubilee Ride was lit up for almost its entire length. Jack pointed out a Barn Owl that nearly everyone managed to see. Hopefully, that was a good omen. Also with us was Roger Ward from Cheltenham. He wanted to see the mothing year before committing to getting his own trap(s). A very busy night ended with 19 species recorded and a superb tally of 1883 **Small Quakers** being made.

A couple of nights later, less than perfect weather greeted us at Ryton Meadows. A cold, nagging breeze was blowing and so we attempted to set up in the most sheltered spots we could. Not expecting to catch much, it was nice to get a visit from Jack, who had come to pick up his dissection kit. He stayed until it began to rain and we decided to count up. In the end we did pretty well with 16 species found. Amongst them were the first **Early Tooth-striped** and **Early Grey** we had recorded.

Val's last mothing trip of her week's holiday resulted from a late decision to head down to Crown East Wood. Yet another Barn Owl was seen en route. There were Buzzards and Ravens amongst the other Corvids circling over the wood as we arrived. Not sure we want to know what omens they were providing! However, late in the evening the generator kept going off so, may be they were telling us to put more oil in?! We managed to struggle on and count up with 19 species the result. Highlights were **Early Thorn**, **Water Carpet** and **Pale Pinion** which was newly recorded for the wood.

A phone call from Patrick ended up with him talking Alan into going to Uffmoor Wood (yeah, right!) Patrick was just opening up as Alan arrived. They were targeting a group of moths called the **Eriocrania** tonight. They are a difficult group to sort out and are only around from March to May. As Alan switched on he found the far trap (well it would be, wouldn't it?!) wasn't lighting up. So it was a trek back to get a spare bulb. Thankfully, everything was OK after that. Our target species were proving elusive until we had about ten minutes of squally rain. Then they suddenly started appearing in our traps. Patrick was disappointed as he hadn't got any in his. He then decided to start packing up. On passing one of Patrick's traps Alan noticed an **Eriocrania** in it. Alan quickly potted it and left it for Patrick. After learning that it was from his own trap, Patrick had a celebratory cup of tea before resuming his counting. So, a successful night came to an end with 23 species recorded. Amongst them were **Eriocrania sangii** and **Eriocrania semipurpurella**.

Good Friday and at last good weather! A trip over to Ryton Meadows was organised. We arrived in plenty of time to set up and even managed to see the Green Woodpecker that had been 'laughing' at us while we were doing it. We also had time to watch a young fox half-heartedly chasing a rabbit. Every time the rabbit stopped running, so did the fox! They both disappeared into the wood with the fox definitely needing to work on its hunting technique if it was ever going to secure a meal. Jack finally arrived and we helped him set up his traps. We had a brief visit from Mike Slater in-between his chauffeuring commitments. Counting up took quite a while tonight with just under a thousand **Small Quaker** and 355 **Common Quaker** to deal with. It wasn't until 3 a.m. that we were finally on our way home. **Frosted**

Green, Brindled Beauty and **Lunar Marbled Brown** were also amongst the 28 species recorded.

The following night a hastily arranged visit to Chaddesley Wood was well supported. We were joined by Dave, Nigel, Patrick and Mervyn who was back from his travels. With the traps widely spread tonight we were very pleased it did not rain especially as we found we had left one of our rain guards at Ryton last night! A very productive night resulted in 37 species being found with **Streamer**, **Purple Thorn** and **Dotted Chestnut** being our favourites.

Easter weekend continued with a return to Grafton Wood. This time no wheelbarrow was involved as Patrick safely negotiated the three fields in the truck. Even the rollercoaster ride was better than pushing the barrow! It also meant that we could employ more traps. It was a cooler night than the previous couple but, with no wind, the moths kept flying. Alan managed to add more evidence to Patrick's theory that he always gets the best moths. This time Alan managed to get all three **Powered Quaker** and the only **Tawny Pinion** of the night amongst the 21 species recorded. The rollercoaster ride back in the dark was even more stomach-churning than on the way but still better than the barrow!!!

Next up was our first visit to the regular Wyre Forest sessions. A very good turnout all followed our leader, Dave Grundy, through the forest to our recording site at the pipeline. Everyone then spread out and a large area was covered by all the lights. It was a struggle to get round to see them all and we don't think we managed it. On one tour round a **Puss Moth** was found perching on a twig next to our actinic trap (well done, Graham). It posed well for the photographers amongst us. Also discovered were a Land Caddis and a very striking Long-horn Beetle. As he was trying to leave, Jack found himself stuck. Luckily, the strongest person in the group, Val, was on hand to give his car a push and he was on his way home. Alan said that he would never argue with her again! A good night ended with 37 species on the list. An interesting micro called **Dahlia inconspicua** and the ever impressive **Great Prominent** were two of them.

After a warm day Alan decided to give Chaddesley Wood another go. A very pretty sunset didn't really augur well as it meant the sky was clear. Moths were slow in arriving at first but a brief visit from Mervyn and Rose brightened things up a bit. Not long after they had left some cloud cover came and things picked up for the next hour and a half. Then the sky cleared again and it was time to pack up. A respectable 20 species were recorded with the first **Brown Silver-line** of the year being seen.

Another visit to Middleton Hall was made next. Val managed to locate Bob earlier this time and he opened up all sorts of places for us. We were even given use of a plug socket in the walled garden so we didn't have to run the noisy generator. Nothing is so much nicer without that particular drone in the background. We were joined tonight by Nigel, Jack, Roy but only one John. We asked if the other John was busy making traps after all that measuring last time. He told us 'no' as the traps were already made and had been used. He even gave Nigel some records to prove it! An excellent night was thoroughly enjoyed in these luxurious surroundings. A total of 36 species were found. **Waved Umber**, **Swallow Prominent** and **Herald** were our favourites.

The last day of April saw Alan join Patrick at Uffmoor Wood. A fox was seen on arrival and the Woodcocks were roding well as they were setting up. The umbrellas were back in action tonight as a steady drizzle came down. The rain followed soon after but with no wind the moths did keep arriving, if slowly. After a soaking, a species count of 15 was not too bad an effort. The most surprising was a **White-shouldered House-moth**.

May

With a sign of summer in the air it seemed everyone was going mothing tonight. Alan finally accepted an invitation from Patrick to go to Grafton Wood. The drive over to the wood was hampered by all the farm gates being closed. Alan's past record with locks and knots is a poor one and so it took a lot longer than usual to get across the fields. After that, Alan decided to be lazy and set one trap next to a bench. He even managed to net a **Least Black Arches** while not moving from his seat! Patrick was very jealous of the netting technique and gave it a go himself. While at one of Patrick's traps we received a surprise visit from Steve Whitehouse. He had spoken to Val on the phone and as he is fairly local, decided to join us for a couple of hours. After Steve had decided it was time to go home, it was time to tally. Two hours later and 37 species had been recorded. Highlights were the micro moth **Pammene splendidulana**, **Chocolate-tip** and **Silver Cloud**. Then it was back across the fields opening and closing the gates. The slow journey home continued with a close encounter with a Fallow Deer. Luckily, it's eye shine gave it away and Alan had time to slow down. The deer made a good decision and went back into the field instead of trying to cross the road. The last thing of note was disturbing a fox that was curled up on a verge at the side of the road. The wildlife never stops even when its dark!

The following evening Alan made a late decision to go over to Ryton Meadows. All went well and he had a good night recording 33 species. The problem started when he mentioned, in passing, to Nigel that he had found a **Lobster Moth** sitting on a fence post next to the actinic trap. Nothing too unusual in that you may think, however, Nigel said that it was the first record for Warwickshire since 1975. With 'The Larger Moths of Warwickshire' book two weeks' away from publication, how was Alan to know? We see them regularly in Worcestershire so he thought nothing of it. If he had known its significance a witness would have been sought. The following months saw endless people saying to Alan 'You're the one who found a Lobster in Warwickshire!' It all got a bit out of control but it does prove what a valuable book it is (or would have been two weeks' earlier for Alan). It can be purchased from David Brown, the author, directly. It's well worth it.

The following evening was less stressful. A venture down to Crown East Wood was a relaxed one. The wood looked a real picture as the changeable weather had led to the bluebells, wood anemones and primroses all being in flower together. Val was disappointed to find the batteries in the camera were dead so the event couldn't be recorded. However, a bottle of wine soon cheered her up! It was a slow mothing night as it was clear and cool. Amongst the 20 species recorded, Val was able to catch up with seeing **Silver Cloud** and we had our first butterfly in a trap this year. It was a very fresh looking **Speckled Wood**.

For the third night in a row we were out mothing. This time it was the official monthly trip to Chaddesley Wood. A superb turnout tonight meant a good chance of seeing plenty of moths. it was an OK night weatherwise so things looked hopeful. Val had managed to acquire some large flasks so a mobile tea stop could be set up. This went down very well and would become a regular luxury on mothing nights. With everyone contributing the first list of 50+ species was managed tonight. **Flame Carpet**, **Barred Umber** and **White Ermine** were some of our favourites.

The consecutive mothing night's streak went to four as a call from Dave Grundy meant a trip to Oversley Wood. Also joining the party were Roy and Graham Finch from Leicestershire. We didn't do our usual spot in the Beech Wood but tried somewhere different. It took a while for us to get started as first one of the bulbs didn't light up and then the generator cut out! After putting oil in the generator and trying a new bulb everything was up and running. Then we went to see where everyone else was. It was a fair trek to find all the traps but well worth it. A slow and steady stream of moths came to the lights meaning there was always something new to see at each stop. With the others starting to count up we headed back to

our own to find them full of moths. They took quite a while to tally and we weren't finished by the time the others arrived. Once we were, we drove back to the gate before showing the extra species we had found. A good night resulted in 57 species being seen. **Maiden's Blush, Square Spot, Grey Birch and Orange Footman** were some of them.

Mid May and Mervyn was leading a public walk around Chaddesley Wood. Alan, Patrick and Mike Southall were all roped in to make it just a bit more interesting by doing some mothing. The traps were set up as Mervyn took the 15-20 strong group on their wander. When they got back it was still light so a search for some Daubenton's Bats by the pools was organised. This time when they arrived at the traps there were actually some moths to see. The group were all very interested and the same old story. Five minutes after they had all disappeared the first **Great Prominent** showed up! It's just so frustrating that the public don't realise that mothing is an all night affair. Often they go home before the best moths arrive. We will say it once again, if you go on a mothing trip, please, please stay to the end - most of the time you WILL be rewarded.

Alan organised a trip over to Ryton Meadows. Roy and Mike Astley took up the invitation and joined him. The omens were good tonight as plenty of **Green Carpet** were on the wing as they were setting up. As usual when those immortal words 'I'm going to pack up.' are mentioned, something interesting will arrive. It was Mike's turn tonight as just as they lights were going to go out, Alan spotted a **Puss Moth** crawling across his sheet. Soon after we found an even better marked one at our actinic trap! Mike's only disappointment was that it was not a **Lobster Moth**. (Please don't mention the **Lobster Moth**! Can we all move on? Thank you! Signed, Alan.) After Mike left, Alan and Roy made one more round of the traps before starting a leisurely count. Another 50+ species count was the result with late arrivals being **Brindled Beauty** and **Orange Footman**.

The monthly trip to Wyre Forest was next on the agenda. After a slow journey we arrived ten minutes late to find a small group waiting in the car park. With the weather forecast being for rain it appeared that only the 'real' mothers would be venturing out tonight. Patrick enhanced his growing 'lightweight' reputation by disappearing home before we even entered the forest! So, the only people left were Dave Grundy, our leader, Roy, Roger, Mervyn and Rose; a very select band indeed. As only Dave and Roy had brought traps we decided we had better add the traps we had got to the proceedings. Sometimes these brave choices have to be made, eh Patrick?! Everything looked good as the rain failed to materialise and the initial few hours saw plenty of moths. Mervyn and Rose then went home just before the heavens opened for the next couple of hours. With umbrellas covering all the traps, the moths kept coming and were kept dry. The rain finally ceased around 3 a.m. and it was tally time. With everyone getting some rest during the rain, even Val and Roger were alive to see what we had caught. A super night produced 80 species and even some new ones for us. The tiny mirco **Micropterix tunbergella** was one of them with other highlights being **Barred Hook-tip, Alder Moth** and **Nut-tree Tussock**.

What a difference 24 hours make. From an excellent night in the Wyre Forest to the nightmare of Sutton Park. After arriving at the correct gate and on time, (an achievement in itself for us when we go to Sutton Park!) we drove into the park a way and set up the equipment. They were in two areas with quite a distance between them; Nigel and Harvey in one and ourselves and David Brown, our leader, in the other. The evening got pretty cold and with moths not overwhelming the traps, it was nothing like last night. Just after it got properly dark the decision to call it a night was made! Personally, we would have given it a bit longer but with the choice of either leaving or being locked in until the morning, we reluctantly packed up. We had saved a few of the moths we had managed to get but had to let them go as nobody had stayed so we could show them. Unsurprisingly, a pathetic 13 species were recorded and we were home by half past midnight!

Things could only get better and Middleton Hall is certainly a great place to start. It was a very eventful night as 'the two John's' unveiled their newly constructed moth traps. Very impressive they were too. We also had plenty of local support from Keith Warmington and entourage. Bob was looking dapper in his penguin outfit as there was a Russian dancing event on at the hall. He still came and unlocked all the facilities for us though. What a top chap! Nigel had also brought some traps so we had plenty to keep us busy. The mobile tea-shop was well used in-between touring the traps and quite an impressive list was being amassed. By 1.30 a.m. Keith's crew had departed and so we could expect the best moths to arrive! It was going to take some time to tally tonight so we all started together. Even so, it was after 5 a.m. before we drove past the Common Terns flying around the big lake on our way home! A very good 96 species were recorded with many highlights. It was the first time we had managed to see all three **Kittens**; that's **Alder**, **Sallow** and **Poplar** on the same night. Also it was the first time we had seen **Dog's Tooth** away from the coast. It certainly shows the extremes you can get on mothing trips, taking the last two as examples.

The following night was another long one as we joined Dave Grundy, Roy and Roger at Oversley Wood. We were back in our favourite bit of Beech wood. The usual enjoyable banter while making the rounds of the traps ensured until it was time to count up. Another very enjoyable night ended in daylight with 76 species recorded. Amongst them were Red Data Book species **Coleophora sylvaticella**. Also **Cnephasia communana** and the pretty Tortrix moth **Eucosmomorpha albersana** were found.

June

This was the month the weather changed and a furious pace of recording followed for nine weeks or so. First trip of the month was down to Crown East Wood. With no wind things looked good although the sky was clear and the temperature dropped to six degrees. The moths did not appear to mind too much and a steady stream came to the lights. Around 1.30 a.m. Alan decided to start counting up. A reasonable night considering the temperature, ended at 3.30 a.m. with 57 species recorded. Highlights included a new moth for us **Argyresthia laevigatella** and **Light Emerald**, **Small Angle Shades**, **Treble Lines** were all new for the year.

The following night we made our first trip to Slimbridge of the year. We had to deliver a microscope to Neil Woodward at the Trust. When we arrived we found Neil was out but his neighbour told us he would not be too long. While setting up we saw Neil's car go past and so Alan went to find him. He got lucky as he was shown Neil's collection of carnivorous plants and a Reed Warbler's nest (complete with chicks) in his garden. Val was disappointed she missed out. After that it was time to switch on in our usual spot of the reed bed filtration system. A while later Neil joined us and took us on a tour of all the security lights around the Centre buildings in search of moths. We were just glad he knew where he was going! All this had inspired Neil and he put his own trap on for the first time this year. However, he then went to bed! Luckily, we could still look in his trap as he puts it over his garden fence. Another cool night with no wind produced 65 species. Highlights included **Obscure Wainscot**, **Cream-bordered Green Pea** and the micro moth **Bucculatrix cidarella**.

It was time for the regular trek over to Chaddesley Wood next. There were the usual suspects with some surprise guests. Martin Kennard and Tony Simpson showed up along with John Reeve who was taking time out from his Mayoral duties! A very sociable and enjoyable evening was had while touring the traps with plenty of catching up being done. It was dawn before everyone had packed up and were on their way home. A good total of 85 species were recorded with **Peach Blossom**, **Poplar Lutestring** and **Alder Moth** being some of our favourites. Val's other favourites were the two Cuckoos she was having a chat with not long after our arrival!

The time had come for Alan to make the first of his bi-annual trips down to Essex to help with his Mum's jobs. The car had played up a bit on the journey and he was glad to have made it as it was a good night for mothing! An extra trap and cable had been taken this time so a different bit could be trapped as well as the garden. This paid off as an excellent 67 species were recorded. Amongst them were **Light Brocade** with two brand new species for us, **Deltaornix torquillella** and **Buttoned Snout** (confirmed by Brian Goodey, the Essex county recorder, the following day.) What a difference a night makes! It was good that Alan went down to the pub with Paul, one of his old school mates as when he returned there was a miserable 12 species in the trap. The next night was a little better with 26 species. A new one was **Shears** so it made it worthwhile. Normally, Alan would have been on his way home after a third night but it took an extra day to get the car fixed and so an extra night was needed. It was a good night too with 60 species recorded. Amongst them were **Orange Footman**, **Large Nutmeg** and the superb **Maple Prominent** (another new one!) So, apart from the car trouble it was an extremely productive trip.

It was then back to Midland mothing with a visit to Oversley Wood. Dave had already arrived when we turned up. We were soon joined by Nigel, Martin and Roy. Val decided to have a wander around to our trapping site as she had only ever seen half the wood, while the rest drove in and set up. The traps were spread over a large area tonight and so a wide range of moths were hoped for. It was a really warm night too. Roy managed to find a Glow-worm near one of his traps and we all went to see that. Then, Alan was as far away from our traps as possible when the lights went out – typical! Val had a real trek to find him. After a bit of oil was put in the generator everything was fine again. The local bats were certainly enjoying a feast above all the lights as they swooped backwards and forwards. We still had plenty of moths to count though with the sun was shining brightly as we helped Dave finish packing up. It proved to be the biggest night of the year so far with 150 species recorded. Amongst the many highlights were the micro moth **Lampronia luzella**, **Beautiful Carpet** and six species of **Hawk-moth (Pine, Lime, Eyed, Poplar, Elephant and Small Elephant.)**

After a few days off, Alan was back on the road again. This time to a new site called Hazelslade Local Nature Reserve. It is adjacent to our regular place at Hednesford Hills. After Alan finally found the correct car park he found Nigel waiting. He was on holiday and so what better way to spend it than mothing! Our leader, Dave, then arrived. While we were all having a chat, Ranger Steve Barnes, appeared. He was the person responsible for us being there as he wanted the Reserve to be recorded. After negotiating the four gates to get on to the site, trapping locations were agreed. Nigel was in some woodland while Alan and Dave were in opposite meadows. After setting up there was still plenty of time to do some dusking. It was a good night and plenty of moths were flying and lots of moths were caught. Time went by very quickly and after only one circuit of the nine traps, it was time to start counting up. Alan and Nigel helped each other while Dave was left to his own devices. There is no need for the 'aaahh's' – he was the only one getting paid for being there! There were some really good moths amongst the 112 species recorded. Along with **Satin** and **Grass Waves** we all got two new species as **Satyr Pug** and **Silvery Arches** were found. Another late finish meant Val got a cup of tea before she had to get up for work.

The monthly trip to Wyre Forest was next and the annual search for Common Fan-foot. It was going to be a really hectic couple of days and so we had decided to leave earlier than normal. Val had a busy time early on as she was collecting moths to show at an event tomorrow. Once all the pots were full (thanks for the loan, Dave!) she tried to get a bit of shut-eye. Alan stayed true to his word and started counting up by 1.30 a.m. However, it was a busy night and we still didn't get away until 4.00 a.m. Even with the early finish we managed to see 118 species. Val was pleased that she had actually managed to see a Tawny Owl for once but, Alan was disappointed he could not catch her favourite moth, **Lilac Beauty**. Highlights for tonight were the micro **Incurvaria praelatella**, **Satin Lutestring**,

Orange Moth, Great Oak Beauty and, of course, **Common Fan-foot** which managed a superb 53 individuals found.

After a couple of hours sleep, Val was up and on her way to Shirley Park as she had arranged to do a tombola for Solihull Environmental Day. The funds raised would be donated to the Warwickshire Branch of Butterfly Conservation after being matched by Barclays. Luckily, Chris Johnson and Val Hill were sorting out the stand and so she could sort out the car unloading in stages. John Reeve put in a brief appearance before taking on his official Mayor of Solihull duties. Normally, he would have been running the stand! Last night's mothing created plenty of interest at the stand and helped in raising over £100.00. With plenty of Val's Barclays colleagues pitching in to help, an enjoyable day was had by all.

The evening's events were taking place in Stourbridge as Richard Southwell had asked us to help with a Moth Night and Barbeque at Norton Covert. We were greeted warmly by the local residents who, as promised, removed a panel from their garden fence so we could gain access to the covert. Even more joy as no generator was required tonight. A gathering of around 40 people listened intently to what Richard and Alan had to say! Then last night's moths made their second public appearance of the day while everyone tucked into the barbeque. A few people did venture out to the traps in the Covert but generally anything interesting got potted and brought back to the table for everyone to see. As usual, our pleading for people to stay long enough for the best moths to arrive fell on deaf ears and just after the last person had gone, the first **Poplar Hawk-moth** arrived. We do try, you know! As normal, it was daylight when we finally finished packing up although it was a bit weird loading the car on someone's drive at that time of day! A very good 114 species were recorded. The micro **Narycia duplicella** was new for us and the other highlight was finding nine **Bird's Wing** in one trap!

The five days' rest that followed was certainly needed as Val was about to start her two weeks' holiday. First on the agenda was a return visit to Middleton Hall. Bob was his usual good self and opened up everything for us even though he was dealing with a Trustee's birthday meal as well. We had a good turnout tonight with Nigel, Roy, Harvey, John Bates, Roger, John Liggins and Keith Warmington joining us. As the weather was good, Alan decided he was prepared to go to a different part of the site. It was certainly that, as one trap was by rhododendron and the other by some bamboo! When Nigel went to GPS them he had to check they weren't in China! They were in a different square though! A superb night was had even with the considerable distances between the traps. Slowly and reluctantly some of our party drifted away throughout the night until it was down to John Bates, Roger and ourselves. The final tally was 151 species recorded. The micro **Argyresthia pygmaeella** was another new one for us. Other highlights were **Scallop Shell, Dog's Tooth** and **Southern Wainscot**. Also, we found 42 **Light Emerald** in one of our traps. It was 6.00 a.m. when we said our goodbyes and saw those Common Terns again on our way out.

The next night we didn't leave home until 9.00 p.m. but we still had plenty of time to set up at Ryton Meadows before it got dark. Val enjoyed watching the various firework displays from the top of 'Scrub Hill'. Mike Slater arrived and was surprised to only see the two of us. However, it proved of benefit to all of us as we could teach Mike some of the moths and he could do the plants for us. Everyone was a winner. After counting the outside of one trap we asked Mike to guess what the tally would be tonight. He said 70 species. That was a slight underestimate as we finished the night on 157! Mike decided he had taken in as much as he could and headed for home just after 2.00 a.m. and we continued to count up. Alan's best moth of the night was the **Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet** that crawled up the side of one of the traps. Being a day flyer he can go for years without seeing one! Other highlights were **Beautiful China-mark, Leopard, Heart & Club** and a **Meadow Brown**!

The weather was as bad as it got in June on our next moth-trapping trip. We had light rain on and off for our long arranged visit to Crown East Wood. Richard and Carol Moore, the owners, had asked us to go so that they could join us. However, owing to unforeseen circumstances only Richard made it. The rain had made the rides slippery and so we decided to set up at the top of the wood tonight. With the umbrellas working well the moths arrived in a steady stream. Richard managed to stay until around 2.00 a.m. before heading home and telling Carol what she had missed. Just before he went a **Large Emerald** showed up to impress and round off his trip nicely. After counting up we found we had recorded 87 species. They included a micro that Alan had been searching for over the last couple of years, **Scoparia basistrigalis**. Val finally managed to catch up with her favourite, **Lilac Beauty** and so a very successful night was had by all.

The following evening we made the awkward journey down to Haugh Wood in Herefordshire. We were joining Dave on another of his never ending quests to find Common Fan-foot. It proved to be a very long but interesting night. Also with us were Robin Hemming, Steve, Roger plus Anna and Nickey from the Herefordshire Woodlands Project. On reaching our trapping site we were surprised to see that before they could start, Anna and Nickey had to put together all their new moth-trapping equipment. It certainly brought back memories of when the Warwickshire gear was in the same state! Eventually, everybody was up and running. Alan managed to spot a Tawny Owl sitting in a dead tree as dusk gave way to darkness. Unfortunately, by the time Val and Roger got there it had moved on. The traps were getting full of moths very quickly and it was a real struggle to keep up with all the arrivals. Alan barely had time to leave our traps and so didn't get to see many others. Val, on the other hand, had a good wander round but even she didn't see them all. It was going to take a lot of time tallying tonight. And so it proved, as we didn't make it home until 7.30 a.m.! The reason became clear when we had time to look at the facts and figures for the night. We had seen 189 species and the volume of each species was impressive too. Some of our highlights were the **Plume Moth**, **Hellinsia osteodactylus**, **Ringlet** (in our trap!), **Fern**, **Pretty Chalk Carpet**, **Shark**, **Coronet** and **White-line Snout**. Sorry, Dave, but couldn't make anything into a **Common Fan-foot**!

Our final outing of June almost didn't happen. Alan's hay fever was so bad he could barely see. However, the realisation that the new pills he was trying weren't working meant he switched back to his tried and tested ones. They did the trick and all was well again. It would have been a huge disappointment if we hadn't been able to make it down to Mike Southall's farm at Crossway Green. We had made the date in January and had really been looking forward to it. Patrick had also decided to make the trip and we arrived almost together. Mike soon joined us and loaded us on to his Landrover. He gave a full tour of the farm so we could decide where to trap. Patrick's choice was down by the large pond while we had less choice owing to us not having an all-terrain vehicle! We were quite a distance apart and Patrick didn't make it over to us until he was on his way home. Alan made it in the other direction but Val spent most of her time by the pond. When she wandered back, one of our traps, located in some 'set aside' had already been counted. Our other one took a couple of hours to tally as it was so full. Daylight had long since emerged when it was finally done and we could head for home. It proved to be the biggest count of the year with 190 species recorded. Patrick chipped in with **Small Seraphim** and **Bordered Sallow** while we contributed **Twin-spot Carpet**, **Waved Black** and the scarce micro, **Phalonidia manniana**. What a night! What a month!

July

A spectacular turn out at Chaddesley Wood on the first of the month allowed us to cover a huge area of the wood. We were in Black Meadow with Patrick which formed part of the huge circular walk around the traps. It was going to be impossible to get to see them all and so we split up and just possibly made it before the early finishers were packing up. We

managed to see parts of the wood we have rarely seen and we are sure they will visit again in the future. By the end of a very busy night there was only Dave, Roger and ourselves left. With good timing we were all ready to leave just after 5.00 a.m. having seen 161 species. The rare micro **Monochroa lutulentella** was found in good numbers in the meadow. **Lackey, Green Arches, Blackneck** and the wood's first confirmed **Dark Dagger** were some of the other species recorded.

The following night was most memorable for its perfect weather. As you may know, David Brown's events are regularly plagued by bad weather and so it came a welcome surprise. We do think it was down to the original date being changed! We were making our first visit to Cross Hands Quarry which is right at the southern boundary of Warwickshire. As with last night, a large turn out of mothers had gathered for the event at this under recorded site. The only drawback with so many traps was that only Martin and Alan had any interest in looking at the micro moths and so had to try and get around as many of them as they could. It left little time to deal with their own until people had begun to drift away. Yet another post 5.00 a.m. finish was inevitable! There were so many highlights amongst the 171 species we recorded. We found at least two first records for Warwickshire, **Aethes hartmanniana** and **Cochylis pallidana**. New moths for us were the plume **Oxyptilus parvidactylus**, **Muslin Footman, Scarlet Tiger** and **Marbled Green** while it was great to see both **Garden Tiger** and **Privet Hawk-moth**.

After a few days' rest we headed back on the road again. This time it was a journey north to Cheshire. A very old friend of ours had said that he knew some people who would be very interested in a moth night being run at their country park. We agreed a date and so that is how it happened. We hadn't any idea of what to expect and so went with an open mind. On arrival we found the place was a static residential caravan park. Tonight was going to be different! We found a poster on the office window advertising our 'moth survey' at 8.00 p.m. One of the owners, Peter, greeted us and gave us a tour round the site. Then we had to explain to the expectant crowd that there wouldn't be any moths to see until it got dark. Some of the kids were disappointed as they would be in bed by then but what can you do?! We set up the traps in two very different locations. Two were down by the River Dane and one other was at the top of a steep hill a quarter of a mile away. Luckily, we were able to plug into the caravans rather than having the generator annoying the residents. We also learned that the site is one of the fastest rising and draining floodplains in Europe. Thankfully, it didn't rain! However, being at the bottom of a river valley and next to water, the clear sky did make the temperature drop and it was quite a cool night. With the moths slow in arriving, it was helpful that Alan managed to net a **Blue-bordered Carpet** dusking so that we had a nice moth to show the residents. Things improved as species like **Brimstone Moth, Peppered Moth, Large Emerald** and **Burnished Brass** all impressed the crowd with their diversity. Peter managed to stay late enough to see the first **Poplar Hawk-moth** arrive before retiring and leaving us to it. We reached a total of 58 species for the night by the time we set off for home just after 5.00 a.m. On our way out we got a great view of a Buzzard struggling to fly at that time of the morning. The final sighting was of three Brown Hares running around a field. A nice end to an enjoyable night.

A return trip up the M6 was next. Despite the roadworks, Alan was early but still found Dave and Roger already waiting at the entrance to Hednesford Hills. Normally, Alan would help Dave set up after doing his own but Roger kindly offered to take over that roll and Alan could catch up on some record entering instead. An excellent night was had at this superb site. When it came to tallying, Alan helped Dave at his first trap. All was going well until Roger was given a **Pine Hawk-moth** to look after. He kept losing it and we were not sure how many were in the trap. In the end, we found three in that trap and a total of nine altogether. They all looked a lot better than the bedraggled looking one that we had last year. As usual, it was 5 a.m. before everything was counted and the equipment packed away. The total of 164 species included **Grass Emerald, Four-dotted Footman** and **Dotted Clay**.

It was back to Hednesford again the following night. This time Steve Whitehouse joined Dave and Alan. He had very kindly bought some petrol for the generator so he could plug in as well. A very nice thought and much appreciated. It was a cooler night than last night and so moth numbers were a little more manageable. Find of the night was the **Clouded Buff** sitting on the outside of one of Dave's traps; a superb moth so rich in colour. Luckily, Ranger Steve had joined us for a while and so he saw the moth and told us he had seen them occasionally during the day and wondered what they were. Now he knows! The species count was down to 114 due to the cooler weather but it was still daylight before we were on our way home. Only one **Pine Hawk-moth** was seen tonight with **Oak Eggar**, **Chevron** and **Suspected** amongst the other moths seen.

After missing out on a few visits to Grafton Wood due to other commitments, Alan finally got there again. The usual loading of equipment onto the back of Patrick's truck took place before the roller-coaster ride over to the wood. Patrick told Alan where he was going and so Alan had a bit of a carry to where he wanted to be. After setting up Patrick made one tour of the traps before heading for some shut-eye. Throughout the night Alan potted anything interesting at Patrick's traps before making a leisurely count of his own. While counting his furthest, the continued squabbling of some Tawny Owls was a bit distracting. At one point an owl flew past and nearly knocked Alan's hat off!! They still didn't shut up! The other trap was much quieter (to count) and just after he had got all the equipment back to the crossroads the headlights of Patrick's truck were approaching. Perfect timing. Patrick then blocked up his traps as he would return to go through them after dropping Alan back at the car park. A good night produced 124 species seen with highlights being **Festoon**, **Bordered Beauty** and **Black Arches**. The timing was even perfect as when he got home Alan just had enough time to count the garden trap and make Val a cuppa before she got up.

Our last visit to Water Orton in 2004 had been so successful that we had been invited back for Val's friend, June's, retirement party. As before, we set up one trap in the front and one in the back garden. The early arrival of an **Elephant Hawk-moth** impressed the assembled party guests. A steady stream of questions were answered to the best of our knowledge while Val worked her way through the four home-made puddings that she just 'HAD' to try! June saved a large **Poplar Hawk-moth** so she could show her grandkids in the morning. At the end of all the festivities, 96 species had been seen with **Gothic**, **Campion** and **Golden-rod Pug** amongst them.

As Ryton Meadows was due to be mown, Alan decided to go over and do some recording before it happened. Mike Astley was also in the area although he was in the wood. Good news for Alan was that Mike Slater had made it as well. He was needed as Alan had forgotten his torch and so would not have been able to find his way over to the wood without him. It was certainly a test in trust as Alan followed his guide to the bright lights in the wood. After spending a while with Mike A. it was time to head back across the meadow. With the journey made safely (thanks, Mike S!), a look in the traps revealed lots of moths. Mr Slater decided to make a strategic withdrawal while Alan started to count up. It took an hour and a half to tally trap one. Mike A. came by to say goodnight before Alan started to count trap two. That only took an hour but it had long been daylight by the time he had finished. A slow journey home and another hour spent counting our garden trap meant Alan didn't get to bed until after Val had gone to work! The night had found 158 species with **Meal Moth**, **Cloaked Carpet**, **Lunar-spotted Pinion** and **Ear Moth** being some of them.

The monthly trek over to Wyre Forest was the next event. Dave had chosen to take the large gathering back to the pipeline area tonight. As usual, there never seems to be enough time to get around all the traps before some start disappearing. Amongst the 131 species found tonight was the first Shropshire record of **Pine Hawk-moth** with **Dark Marbled Carpet**, **Beautiful Yellow Underwing** and **Angle-striped Sallow** were the other highlights.

The annual Moth and Barbeque night at Windmill Hill, Nuneaton had a bit of a twist this year. No barbeque! The regular cook had only just returned from holiday and so there was just a buffet. Val still gave it the thumbs-up. Jason Hawkes caused quite a stir tonight with his homemade monster of a moth trap. It is incredibly ingenious and defies description. You will just have to go on a moth night and see it for yourself! As usual it was a very friendly and enjoyable event. Val was pleased too as we just about left in darkness. She was going to be up early to go and help with the haymaking at Ryton Meadows, now that it had been mown. Just short of the hundred species were recorded with **Canary-shouldered Thorn**, **Double-lobed** and **Dusky Sallow** being some of our favourites.

What a difference a week makes. Alan returned to Ryton Meadows after Val and colleagues had obviously put in a great deal of work raking up all the hay. The mowing of the Meadows, paid for under the Barclays Employee Volunteer Scheme, had gone well and they looked very different. Apart from that it was much the same as last week with Mike A. in the wood and Mike S. on hand. The only other difference was that Alan had a torch this week! With the long vegetation gone, the Meadows were much easier to navigate. Unfortunately, Mike S. couldn't stay as late this week due to work commitments. So after he had left and torch in hand, Alan headed over to see the remaining Mike. After spending an hour or so in the wood they both wandered over to Alan's traps in the Meadows. By the look of them it was going to be another long night counting so after a short while Mike made his way back to the wood and Alan started to tally. Mike had packed everything up and driven over before Alan had finished the first trap! He brought an **Olive** with him and we returned the favour by producing a **Lesser-spotted Pinion**. Mike then said goodnight and left Alan to it. He managed to get everything packed up all of ten minutes earlier than last week – just as it started to drizzle! It was a surprise when he got back to Birmingham and found it had obviously been raining for a while there. Another good night ended with 130 species recorded. Some of the different ones to last week were the micro, **Syncopacma taeniolella**, **White Satin**, **Garden Dart** and **Twin-spotted Wainscot**.

Our next trip provided us with a problem. There were three sites we could have gone to but, as there were micro-moth recorders at two of them, we decided to do the third. So with the final decision made, it was to Tiddesley Wood that we ventured. After we had apologised for being late to all those waiting, Harry Green opened the gate for us. With us for the drive into the wood were Roy, Mike Southall and Debbie Cauldwell who had come from Oxford to join us. The occasional light rain didn't dampen anyone's enthusiasm and an enjoyable round of the traps continued throughout the evening. The umbrellas were again put to good use and did their jobs well. Mike and Debbie were the first ones to start packing up. Alan did his bit with the micros as we went from trap to trap. By that time it was getting late so Roy and ourselves began tallying. At least the rain had now passed and we could count without the need for umbrellas. A very good night produced records for 127 species at this very under recorded wood. Alan thought he had got a first Worcestershire record of the micro **Eudemis porphyra** until Patrick told him late that he had had one three days earlier in Grafton Wood! *****!!! Other highlights were the **Plume moth**, **Stenoptilia zophodactylus**, **Purple Hairstreak** (in our trap!), **Mocha**, a very weird version of the **July Highflyer** caught by Mike, **August Thorn**, **Rosy Footman** and **Vapourer**. When we let the moths go, the bats had a fine time picking them off. They almost pinched one off Alan's hat! Roy had finished about the same time as us and so it was another 5 a.m. finish and off home.

After missing out on going to Hednesford Hills last night, Alan joined Dave for the last trip of the month. The weather was a little better than last night as Dave said he got a soaking on the hills. It was agreed that with both having lots of record entering to catch up on, they would meet up at tally time. However, the plan failed as we had a visit from Ranger, Steve. Alan was pleased that he had managed to finish doing his initial trap lists when he arrived. After going through both traps Steve said he was heading home. With it being after midnight, Alan went down the hill to see Dave. On arrival he found him 'resting his eyes!' The usual

routine followed as Alan helped Dave count his first trap before having a quick look in the others, then going back to count his own. It was a slow process due to the number of moths and Dave had finished by the time Alan was halfway through his last trap. It had started to rain by then and Dave very kindly held the umbrella while Alan finished his counting. An earlier finish than recently, 4.15 a.m. but normal for Hednesford. A good total of 119 species had been seen with **Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet**, **Antler Moth** and **Small Rufous** being three of them.

August

With many people away on their holidays, it was a selected band of mothers at Middleton Hall tonight. Bob had disappeared for a while and so wasn't around to unlock everything for us. He had just arrived back when we noticed some policemen investigating Nigel's car that was parked at the gate. We all went over to assure the Constabulary that nothing improper was happening. It wouldn't be the same to go a whole year without a visit from the boys in blue! With Bob opening everything up, Nigel, Martin and ourselves decided on trapping spots and set up. Roger was also on hand to help with the carrying. A lazy night followed with everyone enjoying the luxurious facilities and entertaining banter. One circuit of the traps was undertaken before everybody went to count up. We were just doing our last trap when we all met up again. A grand total of 141 species were recorded. Yet another butterfly made it into one of our traps; this time it was a **Painted Lady**. Amongst the moths found were both **Plain** and **Golden-rod Pugs**, **Bulrush Wainscot**, **Gold Spot** and Nigel had his first ever **Cream-Bordered Green Pea**. Another top night ended after we all said our goodbyes around 4 a.m.

The monthly Chaddesley Wood session was next. As with Middleton, some of the regulars were absent and so it was another select band tonight with Mervyn being one of the absentees, Roger and Enid Doran were waiting and wondering if they had the right night. We arrived and settled their minds. Roy and Patrick were the only others who made it. With only five traps things were not any less busy as, the invasion of the traps by Hornets kept everyone busy potting them to get them out of the way. They are very partial to moths, are Hornets, especially Noctuids it seems and so if you leave them in the traps many a moth would be eaten. After the initial rush, the Hornets seem to settle and so you can relax a bit. That was when the remaining Needham arrived. Rose came with good and bad news. The good news was that she had brought some delicious fruit cake to share out. The bad news was that she had also brought last night's moths from the garden trap for us to help identify! We did that as it suddenly dawned on us that the cake was obviously a bribe! At least she could now impress Mervyn when he returned by having a fully completed Garden Moth survey form! Patrick returned to his 'lightweight' ways and disappeared not long after midnight with Rose and Enid following. As usual, it was the 'hardcore' that stuck it out until 4 a.m. when we headed for home. A very enjoyable evening produced 115 species recorded. We even managed to see two new moths, the lovely micro **Argyresthia ivella** and **Tissue**.

It was then back to Hednesford Hills with Dave. An uneventful night was unusual but welcome as all the activity was finally taking its toll on Alan. Counting up didn't help matters tonight as between his two traps, Alan had to count more than a thousand **Blastobasis adustella**! He also had over 250 **Argyresthia goedartella**! Dave arrived just as Alan was packing up his final trap. Amongst the 98 species seen was the striking micro **Agriphila latistria** and **Neglected Rustic**. The Nightjars churred them on their way home at around 4.30 a.m.

Roger joined Alan and Dave back at Hednesford Hills the following night as it was the last visit of the year to this site. However, Alan was late to arrive which caused worry as Dave had to go and set up so couldn't wait around. It was Roger who found out that Alan had arrived when he tried to release last night's moths that Dave had taken home to photograph.

So he had to find another place to let them go but was able to return and let Dave know (and Val, who he was on the phone to at the time), that Alan had arrived safely. Panic over, everyone could enjoy the rest of the night although the weather was not great with occasional rain dampening things. So counting up was an exercise in shower dodging. The good thing about the weather was that the count for **Blastobasis adustella** had dropped to 555! Amongst the 91 species seen were **Orange Swift** and a cracking **Angle-striped Sallow**. Alan was secretly hoping the weather would continue to be bad as he was exhausted!

Sometimes you should be careful what you wish for as the annual 'Moths in the Middle' group field trip was greeted by rain, wind and a cool temperature. Mike West had arranged for us to go to Belvide Reservoir in Staffordshire this year. A good turn out meant we could arrange a nice circular route to set the traps in. Some were braver than others and set them in the reeds. During the occasional gaps in the rain several spectacular shooting stars were observed. With the weather being as it was, it turned into a relatively early night as the rain finally set in around 2 a.m. A creditable 66 species were found with **Crescent** and **Brown-veined Wainscot** being a couple of the more unusual ones for us.

With Alan still behind on his record entering he decided to go out and create some more! It was a very late decision though and so he was on his own at Chaddesley Wood. a very uneventful evening went by with the calling foxes and Tawny Owls being the only discernable company. The relative peace allowed for record entering to surpass what was being created and so a very successful evening ended with 48 species being recorded. **Dusky Thorn** and **Dark Sword-grass** were possibly the best.

The weather continued in an unsettled vein as we went to the monthly session at Wyre Forest. Dave had been asked to do a part called Unclyls by the owners so the large group present headed off in convoy to the site. A very eventful evening started with finding the owners out when we arrived. As time was getting on, everyone spread out and set up anyway. When the owners did finally return they said they thought we would not be going as it was raining. The Great General Public, how little they know!! Then several of the group including Val, had a scary confrontation with the owners drunk, mad neighbour. The dog he had with him was just as mad. it certainly wasn't a relaxing evening after that experience! However, brave or stupid (delete as applicable), we carried on recording until the usual 5 a.m. departure time. Somehow, we don't think a return visit is likely and Dave is a little more wary of who he accepts invitations from. Under the circumstances, a total of 63 species recorded was pretty good. **Oak Lutestring** and **Barred Chestnut** were the highlights of a very different night.

The following evening we went over to Monkwood to help Mike Southall with his public event. Normally, it is a very well attended moth night but those public must have been put off by the rain as the only 'public' we had were Paddy Harrison, Reserve Warden, Dave and Roger!! (Dave counted as public because he wasn't running any traps.) It turned out to be an excellent night as Paddy was happy he could actually see the moths rather than looking after the public. He seemed to learn a lot and we certainly enjoyed his funny stories which was a nice trade off. Mike managed to get the second dragonfly in a trap in consecutive nights (Nigel had a Southern Hawker last night), as he had a Common Darter! He also managed an Asparagus Beetle which he was less pleased about as he knows the damage they could do on his farm. Hornets again proved an inconvenience but we had some good moths amongst the 74 species recorded. The superbly marked micro **Mompha raschkiella** is always nice to see and **Pale Eggar**, **Beautiful Carpet** and **Scarce Bordered Straw** were highlights amongst the macros.

The first of Neil's public events at Slimbridge was our next stop. On arrival, we found Dave already setting up in our usual spot. It is not a problem finding places to trap at a site like

Slimbridge and so we were not worried. We did need to find Neil though to ask where he would like us to go. Val found him in a panic as the Peng Observatory had not been set up like normal and so he lent a hand, as did Roger when he turned up. Alan finally found out where he was going to put the traps and got to work. It all worked out in the end although Neil's son, Ben, had spied the Cherry Pie that Val had taken along for supper after the public had gone. Throughout the evening Ben's mouth was watering and he was determined to stay up late enough to get a piece. He could barely keep his eyes open when the last of the public disappeared around half past midnight but he got his reward. He then got taken home after which Neil said he was asleep as soon as his head touched the pillow! The early hours were spent making the odd round of the traps and demolishing the pie until it was time to pack up. A pleasing 93 species were seen with migrants taking the honours in the form of **Rusty-dot Pearl**, **Rush Veneer**, **Gem** and **Scarce Bordered Straw** being recorded. It was again 5 a.m. before we set off for home.

The last day of August provided the first warm night in three weeks and Alan made a very late decision to go over to Ryton Meadows. It was a bit blustery on arrival but on 'Scrub Hill' you can get a bit sheltered. A steady flow of moths entered the traps all evening although the more exposed of the two didn't take too long to count. The other one was a different story and it took over an hour. Luckily, it was all packed up just before it began to rain. A very respectable 69 species were recorded with **Lesser Treble-bar**, **Hedge Rustic** and a second brood **Lilac Beauty** amongst them. Alan just made it home in time to count the garden trap before the rain turned torrential.

September

We were just about to set off for Slimbridge for Neil's second public moth night when the phone rang. It was Roger saying that he had had a message to say it was cancelled. We quickly called Neil to find out the situation and found that due to a lot of 'political nonsense' going on at the Trust, he didn't feel able to run the event. However, he had no objection to us going down anyway. We called Roger back to say we were going anyway, in case any of the public had not got the message. He said he would join us as well which was good. On arrival, we set up in our traditional place and also put one trap in the field with the plug socket in it! In the end, no public turned up but two Trust employees did, having not heard the news as they were in Llanelli all day. They were pleased we had gone as they had made a special journey to Slimbridge. We had a good night chatting and wandering between the red bed and the field before finally decided to pack up. We managed to leave a couple of hours earlier than last week having recorded 57 species and save some people from disappointment. **Southern** and **Large Wainscots** were probably the highlights tonight.

The following evening was the regular Chaddesley Wood trip. Patrick 'bottled it' due to the forecast being for rain. Needless to say the rain never materialised so it was left to Roy, Jack, Roger, Mervyn and Rose together with ourselves to provide the entertainment. We were all in the middle of the wood around the shed. We had some very late arrivals in Steve Whitehouse and the Peplows. We think they now realise the value of meeting times or at least, informing someone of a possible late arrival. They had an awfully long walk from the gate to find us but with us, security comes first. After that we had a good night recording 55 species. They included the first **Autumnal Rustic**, **Brindled Green** and **Barred Sallow** of the year.

A couple of days later, Patrick had finally plucked up the courage to make a trip out. Alan joined him at Grafton Wood. As we arrived in the wood it appeared the Corvids were back at their autumn roost as a steady stream passed overhead. After setting up, it was time for a catch up chat before the endless task of removing Hornets from the traps began. At 1.30 a.m. it was decided to start tallying. As usual, Patrick moaned that Alan had all the good moths. Well, he did get most of the Hornets as well! By the time Patrick had finished

counting his two traps, Alan had only done one. It was after 3 a.m. before they could head for home. A good night lead to 68 species being recorded with **Magpie Moth** and a huge female **Feathered Gothic** being the highlights.

The final pre-arranged visit to Middleton Hall was our next venture. There was a wedding reception taking place tonight but we managed to grab Bob for a few moments. As he had been so good to us this year we decided to make a little presentation of wine and chocolates for him and his wife. He was surprised and said we were welcome any time. We only had four traps between us tonight. It was a bit chilly with clear skies so most of the time was spent in the 'canteen' sitting and chatting. There were just about enough chairs as apart from ourselves, Nigel, Chris Johnson, Val Hill, Roger and a full complement of John's had arrived. A very enjoyable time was had with plenty of friendly banter. When we did finally brave the coolness of the night we were amazed to find the species tally rose to 52. Amongst them we found **Red-green Carpet** was out again, the first **Brown-spot Pinion** and a single, superb **Frosted Orange**. As usual, Roger, Nigel and ourselves were the last to leave.

A long overdue return to Crown East was made mid-month. The weather was warm and humid. Alan disturbed a Tawny Owl while putting up the actinic trap and once the others were up and running went and watched the bats flying around the field as the breeze cooled him down. On the first look in the traps there was good news and bad news. Good news was there were plenty of moths, the bad news, that there were plenty of Hornets too. It was a constant battle to keep up with potting them as they arrived. It was a good couple of hours until the pace slowed and it felt like the wood's whole population were now contained in pots. Counting up started just after midnight and finished just before 3 a.m. Then it was time to get everything packed up before letting the Hornets go. A hard night's work was worthwhile as an excellent 67 species were found. Amongst them were the scarce micro **Stigmella samiatella** and three **Vestal**. That was another migrant and new for us, too. Also another **Lilac Beauty** was seen.

The last trip over to Wyre Forest got off to a bad start as Val phoned home to say she was stuck at work. Alan was told to go without her but he didn't want to let her miss out so a quick phone call was made to Dave to let him know we would be very late. He told Alan where the trapping site was and so the wait for Val to arrive home began. Val was surprised and pleased Alan had waited and within five minutes of getting home she left again. A quick stop at the nearest chip shop was made on the way. A reasonable journey to Wyre and a drive through the forest ended in relief as we found the correct spot. We quickly got to work setting up where nobody else was before going to let Dave know we had arrived. It seemed more people than ever had come along tonight as there were lights all over the place. It was a clear, cool night though so they would all be needed to get a decent list. In the end 48 species were found. Our most numerous was **Pine Carpet** with 45. Some others recorded were **Flounced Chestnut** and the lovely **Pink-barred Sallow**.

The following night we managed to talk Martin, Jason and Mike Astley into joining us at Ryton Meadows. The weather was absolutely perfect. Little did we know what that would lead to. There had been a massive hatch of crane flies and they descended on and into every trap. However, there appeared to be just as many moths and thankfully, only one or two Hornets. The continuous rounds of the traps found more and more species for the list. It ended at a staggering 88 species! For mid September that is exceptional and it was in grassland too! What a night! Migrants were at the head of the list with **Rush Veneer**, **Vestal**, **Pearly Underwing**, **Small Mottled Willow** and **Scarce Bordered Straw** all being recorded. Other highlights were **Round-winged Muslin**, **Deep-brown Dart** and **Rosy Rustic**. Martin and ourselves managed to stick it out to the end at 4 a.m. before heading for home.

With this year's National Moth Night fast approaching and nothing much taking our fancy going on locally, Alan made a call to Brian in Essex to see if they were doing anything. He made Alan an offer he could not refuse and so as soon as Val was home from work on the previous night, we headed to the East Coast. Val would also be on holiday during the next week and Alan could help his Mum with her autumn jobs with no need to rush home. With Alan's Mum now well trained, she knows that the first thing he will do on arrival is put the moth trap up and she had everything ready. Even though it did not go on until 10 p.m. the first time we looked in the trap we found a new moth for us. A **White-point** had put in an appearance almost immediately. Our annual target of **Feathered Ranunculus** was also amongst the 19 species recorded.

After a nice warm day we set off for our chosen National Moth Night event. Alan had thoroughly over-estimated the distance from his Mum's. He thought it would be five or six miles away but it turned out to be three miles and five minute drive! Needless to say we were a bit early arriving. Not being sure where the official meeting place was, we parked and had a wander along the sea wall. It was an amazing sight as fifty yards from where we had parked and through a patch of scrub, we found salt marsh. A boat appeared to have been floated up one of the creeks and left to 'die'. The North Sea was just visible on the horizon. We returned to the car and found we were parked a hundred yards away from where we should have been and so after shifting the car we met a couple of the local recorders, Chris Gibson and Gerry Slater. After a short chat we got to setting up the single trap we had brought with us. We asked Chris if he would like to plug in to the generator and he gratefully accepted the offer. Gerry was self-contained out in the field not far away. By the time we were up and running our leader, Zoe Ringwood, had arrived. She has done some research on our target species tonight, the **Fisher's Estuarine Moth**. It is a moth with a very restricted British distribution and we felt privileged that we may have an opportunity to see it. After a welcome speech to the dozen or so that had gathered for the event we followed Zoe to find its foodplant. It was fascinating to learn how specialised this moth is. As we passed our trap on the way to the sea wall we had a quick look in it. Not much at this time. Alan then hung back a bit and had a look on Chris's sheet while Val followed the rest of the group up onto the sea wall. Alan was surprised as Chris suddenly dived into the long grass. He came out of it with a handful of moth! It was a massive **Convolvulus Hawk-moth**. Everyone was dragged down from the sea wall so they could have a look. As we seemed to be the only people who may have a pot large enough for this monster, Val dashed back to the car to fetch it. After it was in the pot it settled and everyone had a good view.

Anyway, back to our target. We all made it back to the top of the sea wall and then we had to search the long grass stems to see if any moths were sitting on them. Luckily, one of Zoe's colleagues had gone ahead and already started to look. He had found a couple and so nobody would be disappointed tonight. Generally, **Fisher's Estuarine Moths** do not come to light and so this is how to find them. However, they are so well camouflaged that we would never had seen hem without expert help. These first two were very impressive males. After a while searching further along the sea wall for more, Alan turned back to see what was going on at our trap. Val continued on the walk and was rewarded with seeing a couple of even more impressive females. Everyone then returned to have a look at Gerry's sheet and enjoy refreshments. Some friendly banter ensued before a final tour of the traps for most. With only Gerry and ourselves left, we continued on for another hour or so. When it was decided to call it a night Gerry wandered over to have a look in our trap before we packed it up. Alan spotted a small yellow head poking over the top of one of the sides of the trap. He got it in a pot and all three of us went, WOW! That was followed by 'What the hell is it?' None of us had seen anything like it. Even the books we had available couldn't solve the problem. So after packing up, we took Gerry's phone number and said we would call him when we had found out what it was.

It had just started to drizzle when we left and we made the five minute journey back to Weeley in time to put the umbrella over the trap we had left in the garden. Val then disappeared to the land of nod while Alan put his minimal computer skills to work. A fruitless search of that interweb thingy didn't provide any more clues to our mystery moth. After two hours the rain had stopped and it was time to count the garden trap. We managed 32 species in the garden as opposed to 33 earlier in the night. Highlights were the micro **Cochylis hybridella** (new for us) and we had **Orange, Barred, Pink-barred, Dusky-lemon** and **The Sallow** all in the one trap. Alan had to gen go to sleep thinking that our unidentified moth was from a different planet!

The following day, Alan made a last resort call home to Dave Grundy. With great relief he thought he might know what it was. He emailed the picture he had found and it took all of half a second, after receiving it, to begin to breathe normally again. Mystery solved after 18 hours of wondering. Thanks, Dave! The first thing to do then was to call Gerry and tell him the moth is called a **Beautiful Marbled** (see front cover.) Then Alan phoned Brian to ask if he would like the moth for photographic purposes. He said he had better as it was a County first! Luckily, it was only a fifteen minute drive to Brian's and so we dropped it round. He was pleased and jealous all at the same time as he was not able to make last night's event due to work. He made sweeping statements about bloody foreigners coming into his county and finding all the best moths! It was all very funny. After an hour or so we left Brian's and went back to Weeley hoping we would not find any more difficult moths tonight! We got lucky as the most troublesome moth was a new one, amongst the 37 species recorded. The **European Corn-borer** was worn but identifiable and so ended a spectacular National Moth Night weekend. Not hundreds of species but what quality!

Val had a busy end to her holiday week as Patrick phoned to say he was going back to Grafton Wood. Val said she would only go if she could ride in the truck. Anybody would think she was on holiday or something! Alan agreed and so off we went. After the usual gear swap in the car park, Val got in the truck while Alan trudged his way over the wood. By the time they were entering through the final gate Alan was only one field behind as it is such a slow drive over. It was a nice night and the mothing was good. The Hornets weren't too much of a problem although one was enormous and we guessed it must be a queen. We started to pack up around midnight and as Alan had an extra helper, managed to finish before Patrick for a change. An excellent tally of 46 species were found with **Figure of Eight** and **Merveille Du Jour** being two of them. Val's other highlights were seeing a Brown Hare and a muntjack on the drive over and then seeing a Badger and a Fox on the way back.

With a superb month drawing to a close, it was back to Chaddesley Wood for the monthly session (a week early.) Val took her normal wander when we arrived and found where the Hornets' nest was that had been plaguing us recently. Unfortunately, it started to rain heavily on her way back and she got soaked. The rest of the large gathering tonight were standing quite comfortably under umbrellas! It was only a badly timed shower and by the time we had to set up (avoiding the Hornets' nest – thanks, Val) it had stopped raining. People were already thinking of packing up when the rain came again around midnight. However, Dave and ourselves waited it out for a couple of hours and it was OK when we decided to tally. A good total of 39 species were recorded with **Feathered Thorn** and **Green-brindled Crescent** being a couple of them.

October

The month did not get off to the best of starts as Alan made a late decision to pop over to Ryton Meadows. On arrival he found his route up to 'Scrub Hill' blocked by a giant pool of water. It was impassable in our car so he tried to make the best of it. However, the wind got up and it started to rain. Without the normal shelter that the hill and wood provide it was pointless to continue. A grand total of four moths were mad enough to be flying! So after a

couple of hours, Alan decided to head home. The bright side to this trip was that one of the species, **Green-brindled Crescent**, was newly recorded for the Reserve. Not a completely wasted trip, then.

A far more productive journey was made down to Crown East Wood in the middle of the month. A slow journey in rush hour traffic meant Alan got to the wood just before dark. After getting the traps up and running, the generator decided it needed more oil and switched them all off. After oil was put in, the genny ran fine for the rest of the night. The regular event of potting Hornets accounted for the first couple of hours. It doesn't half get tedious doing that! After they had settled down it was much more enjoyable. We even had a late night visit from the 'Badger man'. He had come to check if the Badgers had eaten the food he had left out for them. They had. He then stayed and enjoyed seeing some moths for a while. At least he can believe there are moths in the wood as he has seen some. We don't believe there are Badgers because we have never seen them!! After the Badger man had gone home, Alan decided it was time to tally. A very satisfying 21 species were found with **Figure of Eight** being new for the wood. **November Moth** and **Mottled Umber** were two other species seen.

With the weather still OK, a hastily arranged visit to Middleton Hall was made. An excellent turn out of Roy, Nigel, Keith, Jack and the three Johns made the effort. All were rewarded with good conversation and some good moths to add to the site list. Bob managed to pop in and see us which was nice although we think he was surprised how many of there were. It was also the unofficial launch of the 2005 version of this tome. It did look amusing to see everybody reading the same thing. By the end of the night a very impressive 25 species had been recorded. Amongst them were **December Moth**, **Beaded Chestnut** and **Large Wainscot**.

Another hastily arranged trip was to Chaddesley Wood at the end of the month. It proved a worthwhile trip as the weather had turned bad by the next official session so at least some late records would be made. Only Alan, Roy, Mervyn and Rose were able to make it. Whilst setting up, Roy remembered he had left one of his bulbs on a fencepost at Middleton so Alan lent him the actinic for the evening to compensate. Roy did make the find of the night though as he spotted a **Sprawler** freshly emerged and drying its wings on the slight breeze whilst clinging to a tree trunk. Every time we went past we looked to see if it was sitting normally yet. In the end it took over an hour for it to sit properly. It just shows how vulnerable they would be if they did that during the day. On returning to Mervyn's trap we found the generator had run out of petrol. As it was getting late (9.30 p.m.!!) he decided to call it a night. Roy and Alan gave it another hour or so before doing the same. A very creditable 20 species recorded – some of them were **Juniper Carpet**, **Autumnal Moth** and **Winter Moth**.

November

The final trip of the year proved to be to Tiddesley Wood. Alan managed to talk Roy into joining him in a search for **Plumed Prominent**. Conditions were far from perfect with a gusty wind. On entering the wood we decided to try and find somewhere sheltered from the breeze. Once our trapping spots had been selected and the lights went on, the wind dropped. While waiting for moths to arrive we had a good wander round the wood. There appeared to be **Feathered Thorns** on the wing all over the place; a hopeful sign for our return to the traps. Indeed the moths had arrived on our return but there was no sign of our target. Around a quarter to ten we decided to tally. A very pleasing 19 species were recorded. A very worn **Blood-vein** was probably the most surprising. Unfortunately, our target species was not found but it won't stop us trying again another time.

Conclusion

Well, after asking for a year similar to 2003, we ended up with a better one in 2006. However, if we are being picky, it would be nice if the good weather would appear at regular intervals instead of being quite so condensed! Let's hope Alan's MWS doesn't get too bad this year! As ever, thanks for all the company the many people on our travels have given us throughout the year. May be we will see you again in 2007.

QUICK REFERENCE

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Site</u> | <u>Species</u> |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 12.01.06 | Crown East Wood, Worcestershire | 5 |
| 18.01.06 | Grafton Wood, Worcestershire | 8 |
| 13.02.06 | Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire | 11 |
| 08.03.06 | Crown East Wood, Worcestershire | 16 |
| 24.03.06 | Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire | 18 |
| 25.03.06 | Ryton Wood, Warwickshire | 18 |
| 30.03.06 | Grafton Wood, Worcestershire | 22 |
| 31.03.06 | Middleton Hall, Warwickshire | 17 |
| 01.04.06 | Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire | 19 |
| 03.04.06 | Ryton Meadows, Warwickshire | 16 |
| 06.04.06 | Crown East Wood, Worcestershire | 19 |
| 12.04.06 | Uffmoor Wood, Worcestershire | 23 |
| 14.04.06 | Ryton Meadows, Warwickshire | 28 |
| 15.04.06 | Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire | 37 |
| 16.04.06 | Grafton Wood, Worcestershire | 21 |
| 21.04.06 | Wyre Forest, Shropshire | 37 |
| 25.04.06 | Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire | 20 |
| 28.04.06 | Middleton Hall, Warwickshire | 36 |
| 30.04.06 | Uffmoor Wood, Worcestershire | 15 |
| 03.05.06 | Grafton Wood, Worcestershire | 37 |
| 04.05.06 | Ryton Meadows, Warwickshire | 33 |
| 05.05.06 | Crown East Wood, Worcestershire | 20 |
| 06.05.06 | Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire | 53 |
| 07.05.06 | Oversley Wood, Warwickshire | 57 |
| 12.05.06 | Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire | 37 |
| 16.05.06 | Ryton Meadows, Warwickshire | 52 |
| 19.05.06 | Wyre Forest, Worcestershire | 80 |
| 20.05.06 | Sutton Park, Warwickshire | 13 |
| 26.05.06 | Middleton Hall, Warwickshire | 96 |
| 27.05.06 | Oversley Wood, Warwickshire | 76 |
| 01.06.06 | Crown East Wood, Worcestershire | 57 |
| 02.06.06 | Slimbridge, Gloucestershire | 65 |
| 03.06.06 | Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire | 85 |
| 04.06.06 | Weeley, Essex | 67 |
| 05.06.06 | Weeley, Essex | 12 |
| 06.06.06 | Weeley, Essex | 26 |
| 07.06.06 | Weeley, Essex | 60 |
| 10.06.06 | Oversley Wood, Warwickshire | 150 |
| 13.06.06 | Hazelslade, Staffordshire | 112 |
| 16.06.06 | Wyre Forest, Worcestershire | 118 |

| Date | Site | Species |
|-------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| 17.06.06 | Norton Covert, Worcestershire | 114 |
| 23.06.06 | Middleton Hall, Warwickshire | 151 |
| 24.06.06 | Ryton Meadows, Warwickshire | 157 |
| 26.06.06 | Crown East Wood, Worcestershire | 87 |
| 27.06.06 | Haugh Wood, Herefordshire | 189 |
| 29.06.06 | Norchard Farm, Worcestershire | 190 |
| 01.07.06 | Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire | 161 |
| 02.07.06 | Cross Hands Quarry, Warwickshire | 171 |
| 07.07.06 | Daneside Country Park, Cheshire | 58 |
| 10.07.06 | Hednesford Hills, Staffordshire | 164 |
| 11.07.06 | Hednesford Hills, Staffordshire | 114 |
| 13.07.06 | Grafton Wood, Worcestershire | 124 |
| 15.07.06 | Water Orton, Warwickshire | 96 |
| 18.07.06 | Ryton Meadows, Warwickshire | 158 |
| 21.07.06 | Wyre Forest, Shropshire | 131 |
| 22.07.06 | Windmill Hill, Warwickshire | 95 |
| 25.07.06 | Ryton Meadows, Warwickshire | 130 |
| 29.07.06 | Tiddesley Wood, Worcestershire | 127 |
| 30.07.06 | Hednesford Hills, Staffordshire | 119 |
| 04.08.06 | Middleton Hall, Warwickshire | 141 |
| 05.08.06 | Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire | 115 |
| 07.08.06 | Hednesford Hills, Staffordshire | 98 |
| 08.08.06 | Hednesford Hills, Staffordshire | 91 |
| 12.08.06 | Belvide Reservoir, Staffordshire | 66 |
| 15.08.06 | Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire | 48 |
| 18.08.06 | Wyre Forest, Shropshire | 63 |
| 19.08.06 | Monkwood, Worcestershire | 74 |
| 25.08.06 | Slimbridge, Gloucestershire | 93 |
| 31.08.06 | Ryton Meadows, Warwickshire | 69 |
| 01.09.06 | Slimbridge, Gloucestershire | 57 |
| 02.09.06 | Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire | 55 |
| 04.09.06 | Grafton Wood, Worcestershire | 68 |
| 08.09.06 | Middleton Hall, Warwickshire | 52 |
| 11.09.06 | Crown East Wood, Worcestershire | 67 |
| 15.09.06 | Wyre Forest, Shropshire | 48 |
| 16.09.06 | Ryton Meadows, Warwickshire | 88 |
| 22.09.06 | Weeley, Essex | 19 |
| 23.09.06 | Beaumont Quay, Essex | 33 |
| 23.09.06 | Weeley, Essex | 32 |
| 24.09.06 | Weeley, Essex | 37 |
| 28.09.06 | Grafton Wood, Worcestershire | 46 |
| 30.09.06 | Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire | 39 |
| 08.10.06 | Ryton Meadows, Warwickshire | 4 |
| 13.10.06 | Crown East Wood, Worcestershire | 21 |
| 27.10.06 | Middleton Hall, Warwickshire | 25 |
| 30.10.06 | Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire | 20 |
| 13.11.06 | Tiddesley Wood, Worcestershire | 19 |

SPECIES MENTIONED IN TEXT

| | | |
|-------|----------------------------------|-------|
| 0001 | Micropterix tunbergella | 6 |
| 0012 | Eriocrania sangii | 3 |
| 0013 | Eriocrania semipurpurella | 3 |
| 0015 | Orange Swift | 15 |
| 0088 | Stigmella samiatella | 17 |
| 0132 | Incurvaria praelatella | 8 |
| 0135 | Lampronia luzella | 8 |
| 0161 | Leopard Moth | 9 |
| 0171 | Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet | 9 |
| 0173 | Festoon | 12 |
| 0175 | Narycia duplicella | 9 |
| 0177 | Dahlica inconspicuellla | 4 |
| 0272 | Bucculatrix cidarella | 7 |
| 0309 | Deltaornix torquillella | 8 |
| 0401 | Argyresthia laevigatella | 7 |
| 0409 | Argyresthia ivella | 14 |
| 0411 | Argyresthia goedartella | 14 |
| 0412 | Argyresthia pygmaeella | 9 |
| 0580 | Coleophora sylvaticella | 7 |
| 0648 | White-shouldered House-moth | 4 |
| 0742 | Monochroa lutulentella | 11 |
| 0847 | Syncopacma taeniolella | 13 |
| 0873 | Blastobasis adustella | 15 |
| 0883 | Mompha raschkiella | 15 |
| 0926 | Phalonidia manniana | 10 |
| 0941 | Aethes hartmanniana | 11 |
| 0965 | Cochylis hybridella | 19 |
| 0967 | Cochylis pallidana | 11 |
| 1018 | Cnephasia communana | 7 |
| 1114 | Eudemis porphyrana | 13 |
| 1217 | Eucosmomorpha albersana | 7 |
| 1223 | Pammene splendidulana | 5 |
| 1307 | Agriphila latistria | 14 |
| 1334a | Scoparia basistrigalis | 10 |
| 1350 | Beautiful China-mark | 9 |
| 1375 | European Corn-borer | 19 |
| 1395 | Rusty-dot Pearl | 16 |
| 1398 | Rush Veneer | 16,17 |
| 1417 | Meal Moth | 12 |
| 1490 | Olxyptilus parvidactylus | 11 |
| 1507 | Stenoptilia zophodactylus | 13 |
| 1520 | Hellinsia osteodactylus | 10 |
| 1557 | Purple Hairstreak | 13 |
| 1591 | Painted Lady | 14 |
| 1614 | Speckled Wood | 5 |
| 1626 | Meadow Brown | 9 |
| 1629 | Ringlet | 10 |
| 1631 | December Moth | 20 |
| 1632 | Pale Eggar | 15 |
| 1634 | Lackey | 11 |
| 1637 | Oak Eggar | 12 |

| | | |
|------|------------------------------|------------|
| 1647 | Barred Hook-tip | 6 |
| 1652 | Peach Blossom | 7 |
| 1655 | Poplar Lutestring | 7 |
| 1656 | Satin Lutestring | 8 |
| 1658 | Oak Lutestring | 15 |
| 1659 | Yellow Horned | 3 |
| 1660 | Frosted Green | 3 |
| 1663 | March Moth | 2 |
| 1665 | Grass Emerald | 11 |
| 1666 | Large Emerald | 10,11 |
| 1676 | Mocha | 13 |
| 1680 | Maiden's Blush | 6 |
| 1682 | Blood-vein | 20 |
| 1709 | Satin Wave | 8 |
| 1716 | Vestal | 17 |
| 1720 | Gem | 16 |
| 1722 | Flame Carpet | 5 |
| 1725 | Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet | 14 |
| 1746 | Shoulder Stripe | 2 |
| 1747 | Streamer | 4 |
| 1748 | Beautiful Carpet | 8,15 |
| 1750 | Water Carpet | 3 |
| 1755 | Chevron | 12 |
| 1760 | Red-green Carpet | 17 |
| 1762 | Dark Marbled Carpet | 12 |
| 1766 | Blue-bordered Carpet | 11 |
| 1767 | Pine Carpet | 17 |
| 1771 | Juniper Carpet | 20 |
| 1777 | July Highflyer | 13 |
| 1782 | Fern | 10 |
| 1784 | Pretty Chalk Carpet | 10 |
| 1789 | Scallop Shell | 9 |
| 1790 | Tissue | 14 |
| 1793 | Cloaked Carpet | 12 |
| 1795 | November Moth | 20 |
| 1797 | Autumnal Moth | 20 |
| 1799 | Winter Moth | 1,20 |
| 1809 | Twin-spot Carpet | 10 |
| 1828 | Satyr Pug | 8 |
| 1842 | Plain Pug | 14 |
| 1851 | Golden-rod Pug | 12,14 |
| 1868 | Lesser Treble-bar | 16 |
| 1881 | Early Tooth-striped | 3 |
| 1882 | Small Seraphim | 10 |
| 1884 | Magpie Moth | 17 |
| 1902 | Brown Silver-line | 4 |
| 1903 | Barred Umber | 5 |
| 1906 | Brimstone Moth | 11 |
| 1907 | Bordered Beauty | 12 |
| 1910 | Lilac Beauty | 8,10,16,17 |
| 1912 | August Thorn | 13 |
| 1913 | Canary-shoulded Thorn | 13 |
| 1914 | Dusky Thorn | 15 |

| | | |
|------|--------------------------|-----------|
| 1917 | Early Thorn | 3 |
| 1919 | Purple Thorn | 4 |
| 1923 | Feathered Thorn | 20,19 |
| 1924 | Orange Moth | 9 |
| 1925 | Small Brindled Beauty | 2 |
| 1926 | Pale Brindled Beauty | 2 |
| 1927 | Brindled Beauty | 4,6 |
| 1930 | Oak Beauty | 2 |
| 1931 | Peppered Moth | 11 |
| 1932 | Spring Usher | 1,2 |
| 1934 | Dotted Border | 2 |
| 1935 | Mottled Umber | 20 |
| 1936 | Waved Umber | 4 |
| 1943 | Great Oak Beauty | 9 |
| 1949 | Square Spot | 6 |
| 1951 | Grey Birch | 6 |
| 1961 | Light Emerald | 7,9 |
| 1970 | Grass Wave | 8 |
| 1972 | Convolvulus Hawk-moth | 18 |
| 1976 | Privet Hawk-moth | 11 |
| 1978 | Pine Hawk-moth | 8,11,12 |
| 1979 | Lime Hawk-moth | 8 |
| 1980 | Eyed Hawk-moth | 8 |
| 1981 | Poplar Hawk-moth | 8,9,11,12 |
| 1991 | Elephant Hawk-moth | 8,12 |
| 1992 | Small Elephant Hawk-moth | 8 |
| 1995 | Puss Moth | 4,6 |
| 1996 | Alder Kitten | 7 |
| 1997 | Sallow Kitten | 7 |
| 1998 | Poplar Kitten | 7 |
| 1999 | Lobster Moth | 5,6 |
| 2005 | Great Prominent | 4,6 |
| 2007 | Swallow Prominent | 4 |
| 2009 | Maple Prominent | 8 |
| 2013 | Plumed Prominent | 20 |
| 2015 | Lunar Marbled Brown | 4 |
| 2019 | Chocolate-tip | 5 |
| 2020 | Figure of Eight | 19,20 |
| 2026 | Vapourer | 13 |
| 2031 | White Satin | 13 |
| 2033 | Black Arches | 12 |
| 2035 | Round-winged Muslin | 17 |
| 2037 | Rosy Footman | 13 |
| 2038 | Muslin Footman | 11 |
| 2040 | Four-dotted Footman | 11 |
| 2043 | Orange Footman | 6 |
| 2057 | Garden Tiger | 11 |
| 2059 | Clouded Buff | 12 |
| 2060 | White Ermine | 5 |
| 2068 | Scarlet Tiger | 11 |
| 2078 | Least Black Arches | 5 |
| 2082 | Garden Dart | 13 |
| 2088 | Heart & Club | 9 |

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|------|----------------------------|-------|
| 2091 | Dark Sword-grass | 15 |
| 2117 | Autumnal Rustic | 16 |
| 2119 | Pearly Underwing | 17 |
| 2121 | Barred Chestnut | 15 |
| 2130 | Dotted Clay | 11 |
| 2132 | Neglected Rustic | 14 |
| 2136 | Gothic | 12 |
| 2138 | Green Arches | 11 |
| 2139 | Red Chestnut | 3 |
| 2142 | Beautiful Yellow Underwing | 12 |
| 2147 | Shears | 8 |
| 2149 | Silvery Arches | 8 |
| 2157 | Light Brocade | 8 |
| 2159 | Dog's Tooth | 7,9 |
| 2166 | Campion | 12 |
| 2176 | Antler Moth | 14 |
| 2177 | Hedge Rustic | 16 |
| 2178 | Feathered Gothic | 17 |
| 2179 | Pine Beauty | 2 |
| 2181 | Silver Cloud | 5 |
| 2182 | Small Quaker | 2,3 |
| 2185 | Lead-coloured Drab | 2 |
| 2186 | Powdered Quaker | 4 |
| 2187 | Common Quaker | 2,3 |
| 2189 | Twin-spotted Quaker | 2 |
| 2194 | White-point | 18 |
| 2197 | Southern Wainscot | 9,16 |
| 2204 | Obscure Wainscot | 7 |
| 2216 | Shark | 10 |
| 2227 | Sprawler | 20 |
| 2231 | Deep-brown Dart | 17 |
| 2235 | Tawny Pinion | 4 |
| 2236 | Pale Pinion | 3 |
| 2243 | Early Grey | 3 |
| 2245 | Green-brindled Crescent | 19 |
| 2247 | Merveille Du Jour | 19 |
| 2248 | Brindled Green | 16 |
| 2255 | Feathered Ranunculus | 18 |
| 2258 | Chestnut | 1 |
| 2259 | Dark Chestnut | 2 |
| 2260 | Dotted Chestnut | 4 |
| 2265 | Flounced Chestnut | 17 |
| 2266 | Brown-spot Pinion | 17 |
| 2267 | Beaded Chestnut | 20 |
| 2268 | Suspected | 12 |
| 2271 | Orange Sallow | 19 |
| 2272 | Barred Sallow | 16,19 |
| 2273 | Pink-barred Sallow | 17,19 |
| 2274 | Sallow | 19 |
| 2275 | Dusky-lemon Sallow | 19 |
| 2281 | Alder Moth | 6,7 |
| 2283 | Dark Dagger | 11 |
| 2291 | Coronet | 10 |

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|--------|--------------------------|--------|
| 2295 | Marbled Green | 11 |
| 2301 | Bird's Wing | 9 |
| 2305 | Small Angle Shades | 7 |
| 2312 | Olive | 13 |
| 2313 | Angle-striped Sallow | 12, 15 |
| 2316 | Lesser-spotted Pinion | 13 |
| 2319 | Lunar-spotted Pinion | 12 |
| 2333 | Large Nutmeg | 8 |
| 2336 | Doubled-lobed | 13 |
| 2352 | Dusky Sallow | 13 |
| 2360 | Ear Moth | 12 |
| 2361 | Rosy Rustic | 17 |
| 2364 | Frosted Orange | 17 |
| 2365 | Fisher's Estuarine Moth | 18 |
| 2368 | Crescent | 15 |
| 2369 | Bulrush Wainscot | 14 |
| 2370 | Twin-spotted Wainscot | 13 |
| 2371 | Brown-veined Wainscot | 15 |
| 2375 | Large Wainscot | 16, 20 |
| 2379 | Small Rufous | 14 |
| 2380 | Treble Lines | 7 |
| 2385 | Small Mottled Willow | 17 |
| 2399 | Bordered Sallow | 10 |
| 2407a? | Beautiful Marbled | 19 |
| 2418 | Cream-bordered Green Pea | 7, 14 |
| 2425 | Nut-tree Tussock | 6 |
| 2434 | Burnished Brass | 11 |
| 2439 | Gold Spot | 14 |
| 2466 | Blackneck | 11 |
| 2469 | Herald | 4 |
| 2475 | Waved Black | 10 |
| 2480 | Buttoned Snout | 8 |
| 2482 | White-line Snout | 10 |
| 2488 | Common Fan-foot | 9, 10 |

Warwickshire Branch has three moth traps and associated equipment. If members wish to borrow the equipment or attend any of the locations where the traps are being used then they can contact Val or Alan on 0121 778 2973 after 1pm for further information.

We urge members to attend one of the organised Moth Nights that are held throughout the summer for tips and tuition before they embark on their own moth adventures.

For information on Moth Nights and Butterfly Walks in Warwickshire see the Branch web site at: -

www.warwickshire-butterflies.org.uk

or contact David Brown on 01789 840295 or Keith Warmington on 01827 715873.



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