

**MINUTES OF BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION WARWICKSHIRE BRANCH**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**2.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. – Saturday 10 December 2022**  
**Bourton on Dunsmore, Warwickshire**

Mike Slater opened the meeting and welcomed 61 attendees.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Debbie Cheshire, Steven Cheshire, Tara Higgs and Phil Parr.

2. Minutes

Copies of the Minutes from the previous meeting had been available on the website. There were no matters arising.

3. Re-election of Officers

Keith Warmington, Heather Warmington and Tony Penycate were up for re-election in 2022. All had indicated their willingness to stand again.

Tara Higgs was willing to stand for election to the Committee.

Eleanor Sutton proposed, Rob Adams seconded and the elections were carried unanimously.

4. Chairman's Review

Mike Slater reported that Warwickshire now has 569 members with 57 new members and 58 lost members in 2022.

Just 59 members now receive hard copy communications with 90% getting their communications online, providing additional funding for conservation work.

The branch book, 'Butterfly Conservation - the Warwickshire Approach' will shortly be available. It will cost £25 by cash or cheque only at events or £39.99 from NHBS by mail order and card payment.

A provisional programme of events for 2023 is now available.

5. Treasurer's Report

Keith Warmington reported total Branch funds at 31 March 2022 stood at £8,968.01, £4,618.45 of which is Ryton Wood Restricted Fund. General Fund income was £5,846 and expenditure was £4,823. The Restricted Fund saw income of £60 with expenditure of £4,986. From 1 April 2022 the Ryton Wood Meadow Reserve Restricted Fund has been closed. All Reserve expenditure is paid from Butterfly Conservation Central Fund. An Annual Budget is agreed before the beginning of the Financial Year with Julian Bendle (Senior Land Use Officer)

Total branch funds as at 31 October 2022 are £5,260. The Phil Pain legacy stands at £19,096. Future budget aspirations include, an update to the Larger Moths of Warwickshire book, production of an Atlas of Warwickshire's Micro Moths and a new mower for Ryton Wood Meadows.

6. Digital Communications

Katie Thorpe reported that the branch has 2,391 followers on Twitter, 1023 followers on Instagram and 277 followers on Facebook. The website had shown a slight decrease in usage in 2022 which may reflect more people using iRecord with its ability to provide grid references automatically. Some areas of the site have been shut down due to hacking. Further improvements to the site are planned.

## 7. Butterfly Recorder's Report

Keith Warmington reported that 42,084 records have been received broken down into 17,650 from Transect data, 10,783 from the website, 6,535 from Big Butterfly Count, 4,443 from iRecord, 1,601 from Bird Track, 665 from Garden Butterfly Survey and 407 from iNaturalist.

Records of 83 transects have been received so far and 64,075 butterflies counted including new transects at Compton Verney Meadow, HoEF Gorcott Hill Grassland, HoEF Oak Wood, Ladywalk NR, Langley Road Verge Wolverton and Ryton Pools CP.

The most widespread and numerous butterfly species in 2022 was the Meadow Brown with 17,096 found on transects and 10,156 reported on the website. It was found in 64% of all recorded tetrads in 2022.

The numbers of our key butterfly species recorded on transects in 2022 were compared with the previous years figures to give an idea how they performed. It was noted that Purple Hairstreak had its worst year for 4 years (as did Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell). Best performer was Green Hairstreak with the highest count for 4 years.

Butterfly of the year is Clouded Yellow, a migrant which was recorded from 12 sites in the county, a hot spot being Fulready where up to 12 individuals were present for 20 days in July/August.

## 8. Conservation Officer's Report

Mike Slater reported a busy and successful year with lots of people wanting advice on how to help butterflies and moths. He carried out 40 site visits with particular emphasis on farms and community initiative areas looking to increase the count of Wild Spaces in line with Butterfly Conservation Strategy. He also attended conservation meetings and gave talks, with particular interest being shown by CEMEX for their National Priority Sites.

Guided walks were provided on eight occasions.

There have been 237 work parties on 26 sites through the year. The practical conservation effort totalled over 5,607 hours or the equivalent of 1111 days.

## 9. Moth Records

David Brown gave an interesting update on moths trapped in Warwickshire this year. Four new moth species have been reported in the county - Button Snout, Blomers Rivulet, Balsam Carpet and Crimson Speckled. It was also a good year for rare hawkmoths with records of Striped Hawkmoth, Convolvulus Hawkmoth and larva of Death's Head Hawkmoth.

During a tea and cake break, a slide show of pages from 'Butterfly Conservation - the Warwickshire Approach' were shown.

Following this, Sam McVie gave a talk about the Heart of England Forest and his research project into the Purple Emperor.