



# Spring Newsletter 2011

Welcome to Butterfly Conservation Scotland's Spring 2011 e-newsletter.

Contributions to our newsletters are always welcome – contact Shona at [sgreig@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:sgreig@butterfly-conservation.org) or the postal address below. If you do not wish to receive our newsletter in the future, simply reply to this message with the word 'unsubscribe' in the title – thank you.

**Scotland Team (Paul Kirkland, Tom Prescott and Shona Greig)**  
**Butterfly Conservation Scotland**  
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## **Volunteer Hours**

A timesheet has been sent out with this newsletter for those of you who volunteer on behalf of butterflies and moths. If you can let us know of any hours you have worked (preferably at the end of each quarter) that would be much appreciated. Please return the completed timesheet by email or post to Shona at the address above.

## **Interesting sightings - Hummingbird Hawkmoth**

Jennifer Davidson, a Stirling Council Ranger spotted a Hummingbird Hawkmoth in Ikea's restaurant in Penicuik on 27<sup>th</sup> January.

## **Sword-grass (*Xylena exsoleta*)**

The UKBAP moth season has already started. During a spell of milder winter nights Sword-grass was recorded at four locations on two consecutive nights (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> March). Three of these were from known sites where the moth had been previously recorded in Donside, Kingussie and Banffshire where up to 4 individuals were recorded. However the other record was from a new site and a new 10km square in Forres. This shows the value of trying to record moths during periods of milder weather over the winter. At two of the sites the moth was attracted to light-traps whilst at the other two they were recorded at sugar.

"Sugaring" is an old method of attracting moths, in which a sticky mixture of dark sugar, black treacle and flat beer is painted on fence posts or tree trunks. As a substitute for the beer, fizzy drinks can be used thus making the solution more suited for use with children. The moths are attracted to the sweet mixture to feed where they can be readily approached and identified by torch-light.

You will need: 454g Tin of Black Treacle, 1Kg Brown Sugar, (the darker the better), 500ml Brown Ale (for the moths not you!), Paint brush. Slowly heat the ale in a large pan and simmer for five minutes. Stir in and dissolve the sugar, followed by the treacle and then simmer for two minutes. Allow to cool before decanting into a container. Fizzy drinks like Cola or Irn Bru may be used in place of the ale. A drop of rum stirred in just before use is recommended but not essential. Paint the mixture

at eye level onto 10-20 tree trunks or fence posts just before dusk and check by torch-light for the first two hours of darkness.

It's great fun so why not give it a go and try and record your own Sword-grass.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

#### **Gardening Scotland 2011**

This year Gardening Scotland will be held at The Royal Highland Centre near Edinburgh from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> June. The Living Garden area is now firmly established as a showcase for Scotland's environmental organisations with its own tented area and large showgarden.

This year the theme is to be a community garden with vegetables, wild flower area, pond, reed system, bug area, composting and water butt and has a literary theme of Alice in Wonderland to encourage children to be more involved. We hope to have lots of teapots!

Our partner stands will be covering everything from bumblebees, bugs and birds to wildflower seeds and organic strawberries. Regular demonstrations will take place within the garden.

We need volunteers to help man the stand so please do get in touch if you can help out for either a morning or afternoon on any of the above days. The rest of the day you will be free to get out and about and enjoy the Show. Volunteers will have **free entry** to the Show and travel expenses will be reimbursed. If you can spare a little time it will be much appreciated. Please contact Shona on 01786 447753 or email [sgreig@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:sgreig@butterfly-conservation.org)

For more information visit:

[www.gardenforlife.org.uk](http://www.gardenforlife.org.uk) and

[www.gardeningscotland.com](http://www.gardeningscotland.com)

#### **Big Butterfly Count – 16<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> July**

#### **Save Our Butterflies week – 23<sup>rd</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> July**

#### **Scottish Recorders' Gathering 2011**

Don't forget, we are holding our Scottish Recorders' Gathering at the Battleby Conference Centre, Perthshire on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> March aimed at everyone involved in, or with an interest in butterfly and moth recording in Scotland. We have a great programme of talks and presentations (see below) lined up along with live moth id at lunchtime. The event costs £15 and includes a light lunch and teas/coffees. For more information and to book your place contact Shona at the Stirling office [scotland@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:scotland@butterfly-conservation.org)

### **SCOTTISH RECORDERS' GATHERING 2011**

**Battleby Centre, Redgorton, Perthshire Saturday 26 March 2011**

#### **PROGRAMME**

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 10.00 am | <b>Registration and coffee</b>   |
| 10.30 am | Welcome<br><i>Dr Mark Young, Chairman, Butterfly Conservation Scotland</i>   |
| 10.35 am | The new moth atlas – the winners and losers amongst Scottish moths<br><i>Dr Zoë Randle, Butterfly Conservation</i> |
| 11.10 am | Dark Bordered Beauty: A flagship for aspen<br><i>Dr Tom Prescott, Butterfly Conservation Scotland</i>              |

- 11.35 am Travels of an Aspen Hoverfly  
*Ellie Rotheray*
- 12.10 am Assessing ecological consequences of upland management - or a good excuse to go mothing!" *Dr Nick Littlewood*
- 12.45 pm Buffet lunch followed by fresh moths!
- 2.15 pm The new butterfly atlas - the winners and losers amongst Scottish butterflies  
Richard Fox, Butterfly Conservation
- 3.00 pm Butterfly Transects in Scotland - what they are telling us  
Neil Gregory
- 3.45 pm Tea
- 4.15 pm Top tips for moth identification  
*Roy Leverton and Dr Mark Young*
- 4.45pm Discussion and closing remarks
- 4.50pm Close of meeting

### **Scottish Members' Day, Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2011**

This year, on 1<sup>st</sup> October, we will be holding our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Members' Day at the Battleby Conference Centre, Perthshire. The programme is still taking shape but we hope to have a fun, informal day with an interesting mix of talks, workshops, stands and of course a chance to meet other local members and the Branch organisers. More information and booking forms will be available in due course.

### **Wester Moss Action Day, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March (10am – 3pm)**

Wester Moss, near the village of Fallin, is designated a SSSI due to its being a scarce habitat (Lowland Raised Bog), with the scarce species associated with that habitat type. There are rare plants and butterflies on the moss, including Bog Rosemary, and Large Heath butterflies. Butterfly Conservation have run a linear transect to record the Large Heath (and other!) butterfly species for the past couple of years, and been assisted by myself, and some other fantastically dedicated volunteers. The species associated with the bog depend upon the conditions being favourable to them – which essentially means WET!... but not too wet. Around 6 years ago, Stirling Council paid contractors to remove scrub, mainly self-seeded birch trees, from the moss, as these were drinking up all of the water, and not leaving enough for the moss to thrive. This was effective, but the scrub has remained largely unchecked since then. It is the intention, of Stirling Council, working with Butterfly Conservation, to have the same problem addressed again. The intention is also to work with organisations such as Scottish Natural heritage, Scottish Wildlife Trust, and our volunteers, to carry out some further ditch blocking using plastic piling. In the meantime, we have teamed up with Butterfly Conservation and the Scottish Wildlife Trust - and hopefully YOU!, to carry out a day of cutting down self-seeded conifers with hand tools. The beauty of conifers, is that they do not coppice (re-grow stems) when cut down unless they are Monkey Puzzle, which I am 99.9% sure we do not have on the moss! The more the merrier for this, and children welcome - although anyone who may find it difficult crossing very uneven, sodden ground, may not find this activity suitable. Wellies and waterproofs are essential kit for this terrain also!

Booking for this event is essential. Please wear appropriate clothing, sturdy boots and bring work gloves if you have them. Tools, gloves and other protective clothing will be provided. Refreshments will also be provided but don't forget to bring a packed lunch if you are coming along for the whole day.

Tel: 01786 442464/817511 to book your place!

Jennifer Davidson [davidsonj@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:davidsonj@stirling.gov.uk)

### **Daisy Shepperd (BTCV Natural Talent Apprentice for lowland raised bogs)**

My name is Daisy Shepperd and I am the new BTCV Natural Talent apprentice for lowland raised bogs, based in Stirling. I first heard about the Natural Talent scheme whilst in the final year of my BSc (Hons) in Wildlife Conservation at Nottingham Trent University, but was unable to apply for the 2010 posts as I had yet to graduate. Immediately after graduating I was employed as a fieldworker on the Uist Wader Project in the Outer Hebrides in Scotland. My fieldwork mainly took place on peatland areas of the islands and I became fascinated with the amazing variety of plants and animals that inhabit bogs, such as carnivorous sun-dews, dragonflies, burying beetles and an array of spectacular moths and butterflies. I had kept informed throughout the year about the upcoming BTCV Natural Talent apprenticeships, so I was ready to apply once my fieldwork came to an end. Becoming a Natural Talent

apprentice feels like winning the lottery. It is both recognition for being an outstanding candidate, and an amazing opportunity to gain expertise. The lowland raised bog apprenticeship is perfect for me as I am fascinated by bog ecology and am passionate about peatland conservation. I look forward to learning all about raised bogs, and will be surveying many sites in the area.



**Daisy Shepperd on Benbecula by Rory Whittock**

My apprenticeship is hosted by Butterfly Conservation Scotland and Buglife, so I am going to study a range of invertebrates and I am particularly excited about moth-trapping and surveying bog pools for freshwater bugs and beetles. I aim to become an "ambassador" for lowland raised bogs and hope to get many people interested in protecting these unique and important habitats.

### **Alex Hogg (BTCV Natural Communities Apprentice)**

I studied Countryside Management at Aberystwyth University and recently completed an MSc in Biological Diversity at Plymouth University where I studied the impact of intensive agriculture on Bumblebees. I have a varied background in conservation, having worked as a voluntary warden with the National Trust and as Chairman of the Carn Marth Trust, a community based conservation charity, both in Cornwall. I have also worked in Greece and Barbados conducting conservation for several turtle species. I am passionate about the protection of our environment for the benefit of both wildlife and people. From this traineeship I hope to further develop my skills and learn more about the ecology and conservation of butterflies and moths in Scotland and the threats they face. I am also excited to learn ways to involve communities in

environmental projects and look forward making a positive contribution to the communities we work with, inspiring and fascinating people in butterflies and moths and encouraging involvement in their local environment.

I am looking forward to taking part in field days engaging communities in conservation work, teaching them about butterflies and getting them involved in surveying, whether that takes the form of a post card survey, conducting a butterfly transect or setting up a moth trap. I hope to involve more communities to take part in practical conservation work and encourage membership to our organization. I also look forward to developing children's education with Butterfly Conservation Scotland and finding ways to promote butterflies and moths in primary schools. Another area I hope to learn about is the development of web resources, promoting Butterfly Conservation Scotland activities with the aim of getting more people involved in the work we do.



Alex Hogg at Binny Craig, W Lothian by Mylin McColl

### Comma Postcard Survey



This year, we will be running a Comma Postcard survey. Any sightings can be reported by returning this postcard (stocks will be available from our Stirling office) or

online from 1<sup>st</sup> April by visiting [www.butterfly-conservation.org/scotland](http://www.butterfly-conservation.org/scotland) and clicking on the link to Scottish Comma Survey.

### **Garden Tiger Postcard Survey**

Following the success of our recent butterfly postcard surveys over the last three years we are planning to launch a Garden Tiger postcard survey this summer. The survey will be run along similar lines to our Orange-tip, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell and this year's Comma postcard surveys. People can either return the postcard or record Garden Tiger on-line at our Scottish web site

The adults are unmistakable being big, blowsy and beautiful and occur throughout Scotland so anyone can get involved and thus an ideal candidate for a postcard survey. They are also readily attracted to outside lights and can occasionally be found during the day. There are concerns that the Garden Tiger is declining in the southern half of the UK, so our survey may help determine its current status in Scotland.

So why not go on a tiger safari in 2011! Details will be on the website later in the year.



Garden Tiger by Paul Kirkland (N.Ireland)



Garden Tiger by Paul Kirkland (N.Ireland)

## East Scotland Branch

### Walking the West Highland Way in support of Butterfly Conservation

Fife member, Grahame Boath, has been planning on walking the West Highland Way for quite some time, and whenever he mentioned it he was asked what charity he was supporting. He admits that he hadn't considered the charity aspect as part of his planning, but it took him no time at all to reach a decision: in Grahame's own words "what better charity than Butterfly Conservation?". His walk starts on 23 April and although he is keen to spend time recording butterflies and moths during his walk, he is realistic about his chances of seeing much at that time of year. He had even considered taking a battery operated moth trap with him but on balance decided that this would just be a bit much to carry in addition to all the camping gear, particularly as the battery would probably only last one or two nights.

So as well as butterflies and moths, Grahame is looking for sponsorship to raise as much as possible for Butterfly Conservation and he has set up a "Just Giving" page, where you can safely donate on-line. Find it here: <http://www.justgiving.com/Grahame-Boath>. Well done and good luck to Grahame!

### Some early butterfly sightings

Despite the prolonged cold weather, there have been one or two sunny days and these have brought some butterflies out of hibernation. Let's hope that the sudden return of winter won't now make them regret their rash awakening! There have been Small Tortoiseshells seen in Berwickshire, Haddington, Dalgety Bay, Glenrothes and St Andrews and Peacocks in John Muir Country Park and Kirkcaldy. It surely won't be long before we see a few Comma stretching their wings as well.

### Some early Fife moths or no early Fife moths

There are a number of moth species that must be under-recorded because they dare to fly during the early months. Many recorders will not dust down their moth traps until late April or May and as a result they miss many of the true harbingers of spring.

The Early Moth (*Theria primaria*) has only been recorded once in Fife. Why should that be, given that it is described as "Widespread... throughout... the southern half of Scotland" in Waring, Townsend and Lewington's Field Guide to the Moths of Great Britain and Ireland? Well, it flies in January and February when most recorders are still in cosy hibernation. It is associated with hawthorn, which is pretty abundant almost everywhere, and I spent quite a number of evenings this year armed with a torch, scouring the many bushes bordering my housing estate and local golf course. I also tried sugaring the adjacent fence posts but all I got were funny looks from dog-walkers and an occasional comment from passing youths. Perhaps it was unusually cold, or perhaps I should have tried for a wee bit longer into the night, or perhaps they just weren't there, but whatever the reason, there is still just that single Fife record.

Spring Usher (*Agriopis leucophaearia*) is another early species, flying during February and March. It has never been recorded in Fife but has been seen in large numbers in the Lothians and neighbouring Stirlingshire. It is associated with mature oak and although Fife is not overburdened with oak woods, there are surely enough of them around to support a population or two of this beast. If I alter my route home from the office slightly, I can find myself passing Inzievar Wood, which has the remains of some ancient woodland and a fair number of large mature oaks. So, on the few evenings where the forecast predicted evening temperatures greater than a couple of degrees, I have tried my luck with a light trap and sugar patches amongst the stands of oak at Inzievar. I have been fortunate enough to find Pale Brindled

Beauty, Dotted Border, Chestnut and Satellite – but no Spring Usher (and the forecast was not always accurate either!) One bonus was that the micro moth *Tortricodes alternella* came to my light trap in some quantity. It is also an early flier that had not previously been recorded in Fife but has now also been found in the east of the county at Guardbridge. I have recently been introduced to some other promising oak woods and although time is running out this year for Spring Usher, there is still time to find Oak Beauty (*Biston strataria*) another species oddly missing from the Fife map.

**Duncan Davidson – Fife sub-branch**

## **Notes from the Borders**

### **Summer Events**

There are eight widely-scattered outdoor events in the Borders between late April and the end of July. Some have been arranged jointly with the Scottish Wildlife Trust and those in May form part of a diverse programme of wildlife activities in Borders Biodiversity Week. A full list of our daytime field trips and moth evenings can be found on the East Branch website and will also be printed in the forthcoming branch newsletter. While we always hope to make exciting new discoveries at some of these events, they are primarily designed to show people (whether BC members or not) some of the characteristic species of butterflies and moths which we have across the Borders, particularly those which don't normally crop up in our gardens but prefer wilder, semi-natural habitats, where their larval foodplants grow. So if you want to improve your identification skills or just like to see these insects in their preferred environments then these outings will suit you; if you are unsure about anything then contact the person named for each event in the programme.

### **Targeted Recording in 2011**

Following the many successes last year, when new colonies of Green Hairstreak, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary and perhaps Small Blue were discovered, we will be urging local people to get out and look for particular species again. Probably the most important butterfly to be checked on is the Large Heath, which was only recorded at **one** site in the Borders in 2010. This is a UKBAP Priority Species whose available habitat has declined seriously and it is also threatened by climate change, so knowing the status of our remaining colonies is very important. There are at least another twenty sites to check.

For moths the story is a bit different - yes, both targeted and routine recording turned up some excellent species in 2010, but we still have large gaps in coverage, especially away from the major built-up areas. To put this a different way, as well as identifying target species, there are habitats too which need further exploration. To remind you - there are portable moth-traps which can be borrowed and plenty of help with ID to get you started if you are new to moths. And, of course, there are some interesting and scarce moths which fly during the day.

### **Winter-time Moths**

This past winter I decided to have a go at finding some of the rather few moths which are on the wing between November and March. Some (such as Chestnut and Satellite) spend the whole of the cold part of the year from September to April as the adult, being active only during warmer spells. Others, such as the December Moth, Winter Moth and Scarce Umber, have a flight season from October, which is over by the end of the year.



**December Moth by Barry Prater**

Then there are those species that first appear in January or February - Pale Brindled Beauty, Early Moth and the splendid, and splendidly-named, Spring Usher – and



Spring Usher by Barry Prater



Early Moth by Barry Prater

remain on the wing until March. All are attracted to light, so it's a matter of checking weather forecasts and being poised to get the trap out when things look suitable.

**Barry Prater - Borders Sub-Group**

## Highland Branch

Our Newsletter should be out shortly but I have already seen the wealth of field trips on offer this year. I think we are in for another splendid year no matter what the weather throws at us. I will be particularly interested to see if our first ever scrub bash at Polmailly has worked in favour of the two species we hoped to encourage as one of them is my particular favourite, the Dingy Skipper. We certainly opened up the area but only time will tell if it worked and the other species, the Pearl-bordered Fritillary becomes more numerous. In truth I suspect we will actually see no difference until spring a year hence as it will take a full year for the effects to work through. When the butterflies emerge this spring they will only benefit from the effort we have put in at that time. If the new conditions suit then next spring we should see an increase in number. Butterfly recording is as much a test of one's patience as it is of one's ingenuity.

### Two-and-a-half Caterpillars

I cycled up to Lochend (Loch Ness) from Inverness on Saturday the 19th of February and on my return along the canal path I spotted a Ruby Tiger caterpillar which I scooped up to prevent it being run over.

I have looked at the literature and found they should not really be out on that date but I noticed the verges had been flailed (swiped) which may have disturbed it or it might simply have been the sunshine bringing it out and it hadn't made it back to cover before I nabbed it. It would seem to have come to light in the last few years that some of our caterpillars like to sunbathe and this might just be supportive evidence of early activity in this species. You heard it here first! Looking back at my own records I noted that I found 2 on the 16th of February 2008 on the same stretch of path which rather adds weight to my theory that they are coming out for a heat. I suppose it is possible that after a short warm-up these caterpillars may return to a state of hibernation if it gets cooler again.

However another possibility is that these individuals were harbouring parasites which affects their behaviour. That clouds the issue.

As an update I found a further two-and-a-half caterpillars the next day on the canal path. The first was certainly not disturbed by a swipe (flail) as this one was on the un-swiped side of the canal - so that effectively rules out disturbance. This one was moving quite quickly so could well have warmed up. The other one was on the path where I found all the rest. The half caterpillar was just that - half missing, I thought it was a small specimen at first, so I can only guess where the rest went? It does however leave the question, is it warmth or parasites driving them out of cover? I would think warmth is the key factor as if they were parasitised surely they would be in no fit state to run around.

All of these specimens were of the mid coloured variety (not black nor yellow) which made me wonder if the other colour forms have different temperature thresholds at which the sun affects their movements.

**Jimmy McKellar – Highland Branch Chair**

### Highland Notes

My recording of butterflies takes various forms from a regular butterfly transect on Inverpolly NNR many years ago to in the garden. Last year there were some variations I tend to exploit this year and they included garden centres, churchyards and a greenhouse! I was looking in an Inverness Garden Centre for a new dwarf buddleia to put in a pot and move around the garden for butterflies. In the Garden Centre were two Red Admirals and three Peacocks on various nectar sources. This year I will be visiting these centres more often. The second was following a telephone call from a lady who was watching a dozen or more Peacocks. On asking the place she replied she was telephoning from the churchyard at Daviot just south of Inverness. The butterflies were after nectar not only from wild flowers in the burial ground but also flowers on the graves. Churchyards tend to be overlooked but I should have known better. Many years ago when I was studying Chequered Skippers at Ariundle Oakwood NNR west of Fort William was a good example. On a nearby churchyard there were dense swarms of cuckoo flowers all in blossom with dozens of Orange-tips laying their eggs on them. The next morning every single flower had been cut off as someone had “tidied up” the site. The third variation was the greenhouse in the garden. We had moved some pots with sedum plants into the greenhouse as the blossoms were not quite out. Within 48 hours they had fully flowered and there were Red Admirals and Peacocks on them in the warmth and out of the wind so we just left the door open for several days.

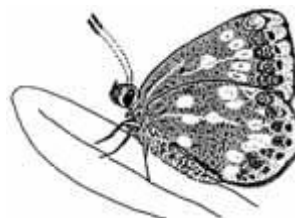
**Ray Collier**

## South West Scotland Branch

### South West Scotland Branch of Butterfly Conservation

INVITES SUITABLE APPLICANTS FOR THE VOLUNTARY POSTS OF:

- Branch Chairperson
- Branch Treasurer



The South West Scotland Branch of Butterfly Conservation is a thriving and growing branch. The study and conservation of our local butterflies and moths is important and rewarding. A small committee undertakes the running of the branch and supports the Dumfries and Galloway Sub-branch.

Positions have become vacant within the committee. An enthusiastic person is required for the chair to help the branch focus for the future and build upon the successes already achieved. Liaison with the Scottish Headquarters in Stirling and the UK office in Dorset will be required, implementing their national goals as well as locally agreed plans. The Treasurer's role is small and a requirement of the Charities Commission. Some developed skills at book keeping would be helpful, but not necessary.

These opportunities will enhance a *Curriculum Vita* significantly.

Please help to save our butterflies, moths and their environments.

For further information, please contact:

Neil Gregory, 32 Oldhall Drive, Kilmacolm, Inverclyde. PA13 4RF

Email: [droitwich@btinternet.com](mailto:droitwich@btinternet.com)

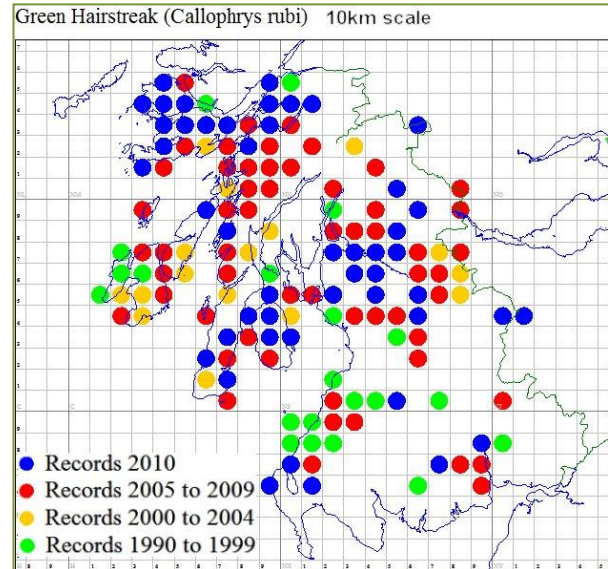
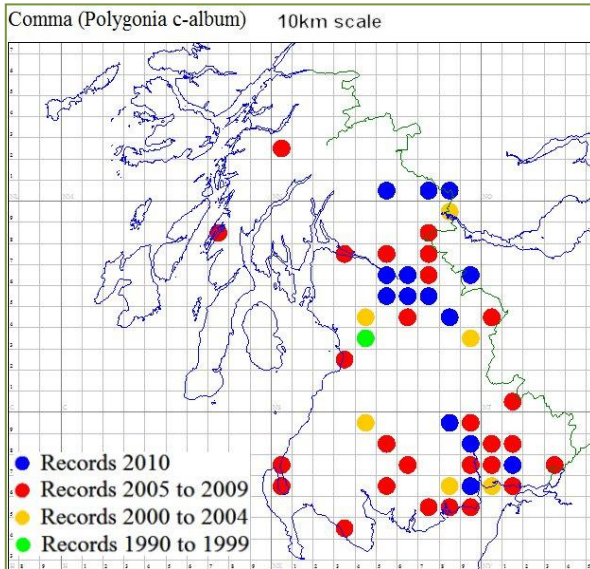
Telephone: 01505 874275

The SW Scotland branch are running a number of practical conservation events this year including our exciting Small Blue reintroduction project south of Irvine, Ayrshire and habitat enhancement work for Green Hairstreaks and Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillaries near Strathblane, Stirlingshire (see events list for details).

We are also looking for people to help visit sites that have historic records of species, but no recent records, to check if the colony still exists. The branch website (<http://www.southwestscotland-butterflies.org.uk>) surveys page has details of sites you can visit to help search for Pearl-Bordered Fritillaries, Chequered Skippers, Northern Brown Argus, Dingy Skippers and Mountain Ringlets.

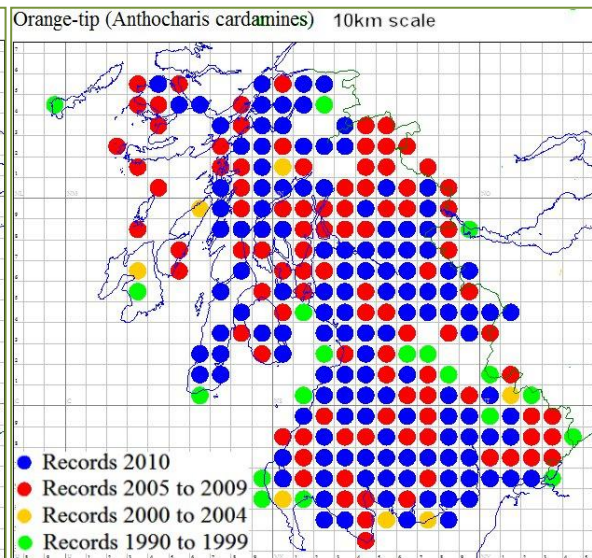
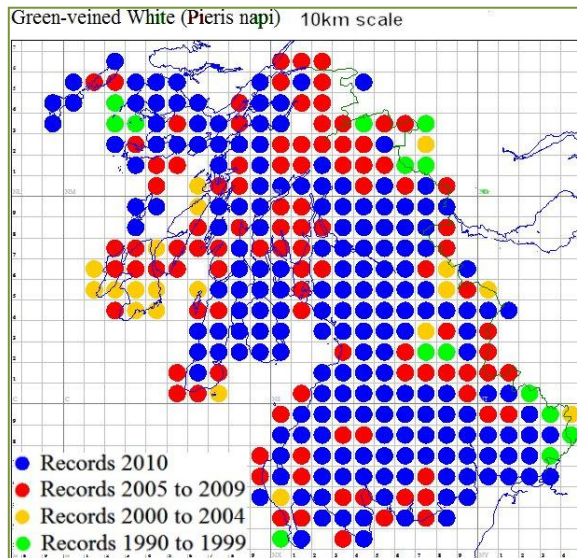
You don't have to go off into the wilds to help with surveys though. Sending in records of butterflies in your garden or around your neighbourhood can contribute enormously to our knowledge of butterfly distribution and population trends. For instance, the majority of our data on the remarkable spread of the Comma through SW Scotland has come from garden records! Why not get involved with a 'My Patch' survey, which involves you recording all butterflies you see in a designated 1km square near your home (get in touch and I'll send you a 1km map of the area around your home). You don't have to follow the same route every week. Go out looking as often as you like, and over time you'll build up a fantastic picture of which species are common or rare in YOUR Patch. You can then think about what can be done to encourage other species to visit and possibly stay and breed! Maybe you'll spot an absence of Meadow Browns and Ringlets, which need long grass for their caterpillars. You'll then have good data to help convince the local authority to leave a section of the local park or footpaths uncut.

Sending in casual records of butterflies and moths you see while on day trips or holidays is also fantastically important. In many cases the only records we get of very rare species, or from remote locations are from people on holiday. In Scotland we have a huge number of under-recorded locations. In the SW, mainly in Argyll and



islands such as Islay, Jura, Tiree, but even Lanarkshire has 10km squares that have had no butterfly records at all in the last 5 years! (ie.NS82- around Crawfordjohn, near Abington). If planning a long weekend walking or a trip to the islands remember to lookout for butterflies and moths!

Below are 10km distribution maps of spring butterflies that should be on the wing soon. Why not check out the blank squares or squares with only old records and see



what you can find!.

**Scott Shanks - SW Scotland Branch Butterfly Recorder**  
**scottshanks01@msn.com**

### Garscube Colliery Site of Nature Conservation Butterfly Project

The South West Scotland branch were approached at the end of 2010 by Glasgow City Council concerning a possible joint project at Garscube Colliery, a local site of nature conservation (SINC) in the north of the city. The colliery is now a greenspace near Summerston rail station (NS5769), and was designated as a SINC due to its population of Common Blue butterflies. The biodiversity officers haven't been able to visit the site regularly over the last few years, but are worried that the Common Blue population has vanished.

Our involvement would be to help survey the site for Common Blue (other butterflies and moths); map out caterpillar food plants and nectar plants and possibly get involved in enhancing the site with wildflower planting and possibly scrub/tree removal. If you'd like to come along and help survey the site for butterflies and plants during the spring and summer, and possibly help with a shared transect on the site please get in touch.



The site is next to the Western Necropolis cemetery and close to the Summerston train station. There is free parking nearby in the supermarket car park on Arrochar Street. We will likely have a wildflower planting day at the site later in the year, so if you had room in your garden, balcony or greenhouse to grow some trays of wildflowers that would be great!

Garscube Colliery has butterfly records of Common Blue, Small White, Large White, Orange-tip, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Small Tortoiseshell, and there are nearby

records of Green-veined White, Peacock, Painted Lady, Red Admiral and Small Copper.

**Scott Shanks - SW Scotland branch Butterfly Recorder**  
[scottshanks01@msn.com](mailto:scottshanks01@msn.com)

### **Dumfries and Galloway Sub-group**

The focus of the Sub-Group is to add to our knowledge of butterflies (and moths) in Dumfries and Galloway. To further this aim we will be contacting members to request their post-codes as for most we only have emails which tells us nothing about where they live! We will then send out details of a couple of nearby squares for which we have none, or very few, records. If just a couple of visits to these squares can be made over the summer any butterfly records (and indeed any other wildlife records) will add greatly to our knowledge. Information as to how to proceed, and where to send the records, will be included with the 'squares details'.

We also plan a few group field visits this year, some to be combined with other organisations. These can also act as ID training sessions. Tentative dates and places are Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June (Auchenfad and Colvend), Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July (with Stewartry SOC) to Wigtown Coast, and Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August (with SWT) to Knockman Wood. The 'Big Butterfly Count' is a BC National Event and we are planning to link up with the D&G Environmental Resources Centre 'Bugs in Gardens Project' at Threave. We also hope to visit some of the good butterfly areas around Stranraer.

Many of you will also have your own favourite butterfly sites which you visit on either a casual or regular basis. We would love to know about them (assuming you are willing to make their whereabouts widely known!). And if you think they are suitable for a group meeting then we could try to arrange a visit.

Another information item concerns our email address. We now have a dedicated Sub-Group Address which is [dumgalbutterflies@yahoo.com](mailto:dumgalbutterflies@yahoo.com) as the initial 'speckledwood09' address was connected to a personal one. But don't worry as anything sent to 'speckledwood' will be automatically forwarded to the new one.

### **Now....Meet Your Steering Group:-**

Richard Eagles  
Tina Flinn  
Owen Figgis  
Stuart Graham  
Jackie Medicks  
Mark Pollitt  
Anna White  
Susan Woods

### **Provisional Atlas of the UK's Larger Moths**

We now have a reprint of the *Provisional Atlas of the UK's Larger Moths*, the first print run having sold out in a matter of weeks. This exciting publication (the first of its kind for almost 30 years) can be yours for £20 (plus £5.00 post and packaging). To order a copy visit <http://www.butterfly-conservation.org/text/27/shop.html> or phone 01929 400209. All proceeds received by Butterfly Conservation will be used towards ongoing moth recording.

### **Butterfly Conservation Scotland branded clothing now available**

Glasgow & South West branch are having some good quality clothing produced featuring the Butterfly Conservation Scotland logo & text embroidered on the left breast.

Ideal for events or just for showing your support with any profits going to support local BCS projects.

Polo shirt (100% cotton) with embroidered BCS logo £12.50

Long sleeved Polo shirt (100% cotton) with embroidered BCS logo £14.75

Full Zip Fleece with embroidered BCS logo £18.00

Sizes available: S-XXL (S=35-37", M=38-40", L=41-43", XL=44-46", XXL=47-49")

XS, XXXL & XXXXL sizes also available but may involve a product change.

Colours available: Black, Navy, Bottle Green, Royal Blue, Red

Orders can be picked up from events or if required posted out at extra cost.

To order please contact [BCS\\_Clothing@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:BCS_Clothing@hotmail.co.uk) or

BCS Clothing,

c/o S.Donaldson,

103 Earbank Avenue,

Glasgow,

G14 9DY

Orders to arrive by 31st March 2011 please, delivery to us expected mid-to-late April.

If you would like anything else made with the logo (e.g. sweatshirt, baseball cap etc.) please contact via the above & we can get it priced.

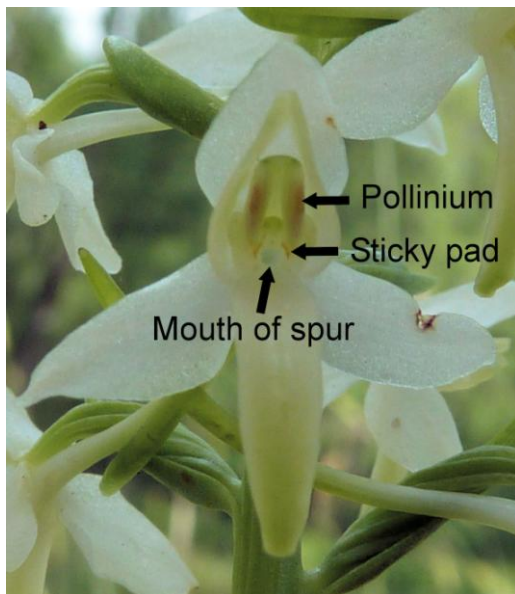
### **Which moth species are pollinating Lesser Butterfly Orchid in Scotland?**

Lesser Butterfly Orchid (*Platanthera bifolia*) is a nationally scarce orchid found in rough grassland, heathland and woodland edge habitats. Although widespread in the UK, the species has recently undergone a significant national decline. Scotland is the

UK stronghold for the species, where it has a distinct North and West bias in its distribution. Lesser Butterfly Orchid has been identified as a conservation priority in Scotland's Species Action Framework and is one of the four species being targeted by the Cairngorms Rare Plants Project.



The flowering period extends from mid-June to early July when a tall spike of striking white flowers is produced. The flowers have a long spur, containing a large quantity of nectar, and become strongly scented around dusk. Night-flying moths are the likely pollinators of these flowers but the particular moth species that pollinate the orchid in Scotland have yet to be identified. However, the availability of such information is vital to the development of successful future conservation action for the species.



In orchids, pollen is packaged into units called pollinia and each one is connected to a small sticky pad at its base. In Lesser Butterfly Orchid the two pollinia lie parallel to each other at the mouth of the spur. When a moth visits the flower, and inserts its proboscis into the spur, the pollinia are attached to the base of the proboscis by the sticky pads. As the moth moves from flower to flower, probing for nectar, it carries with it pollinia from the previous flower. After a short period of time, the pollinia rotate to face forwards enabling them to come into contact with the stigma of the next flower visited by the moth and hence pollination can take place. This intricate pollination mechanism provides a clue as to the identity of the pollinator species of the orchid

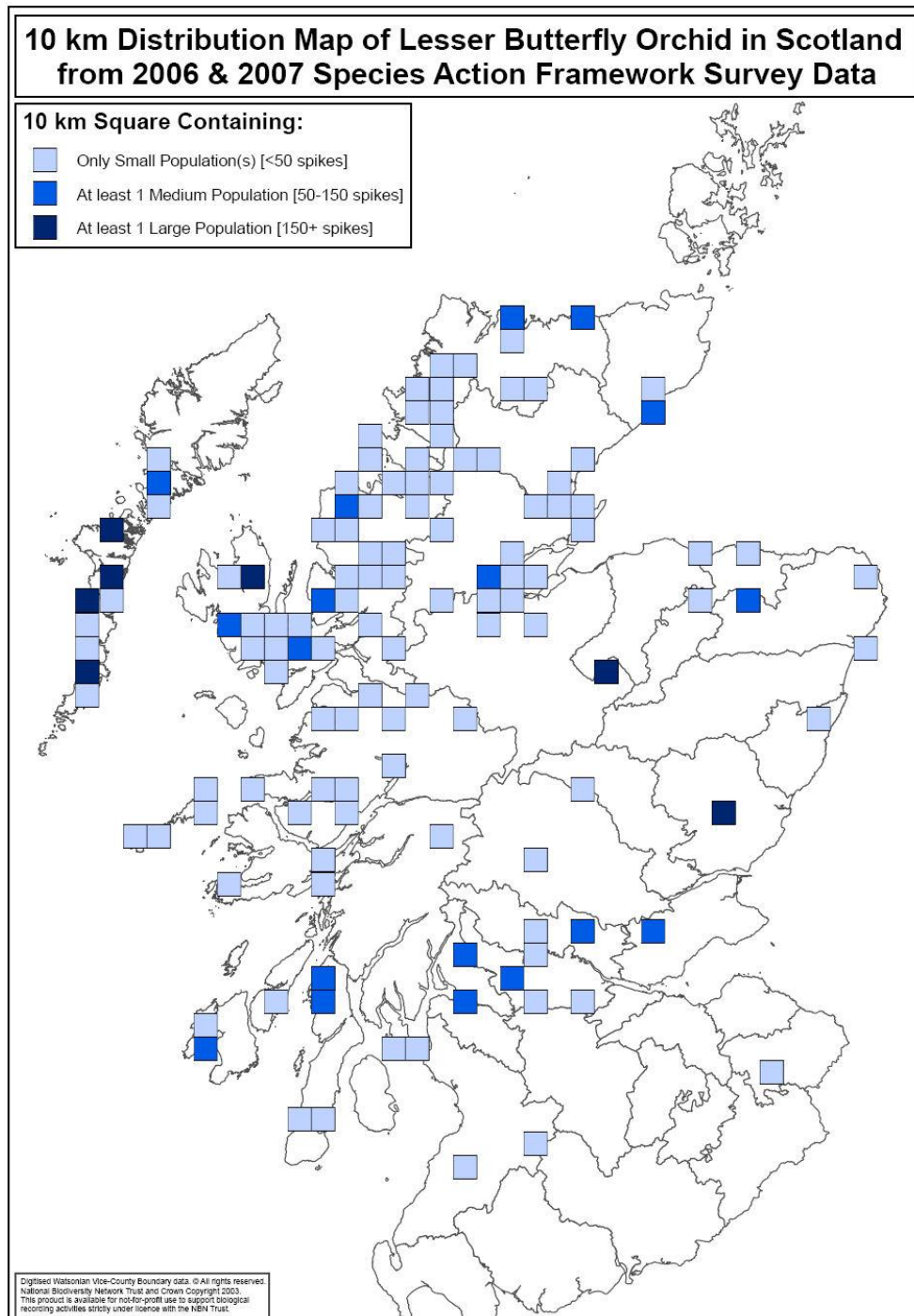
because the pollinia attached to the base of the proboscis are visible upon close inspection.

In order to find out which moth species are pollinating Lesser Butterfly Orchid in Scotland, and whether this varies between sites, we are looking for volunteers to run moth traps at Lesser Butterfly Orchid populations in different parts of Scotland, examining the catch for the presence of orchid pollinia. Thanks to recent national surveys, as part of Species Action Framework research, data are available on the location and size of Lesser Butterfly Orchid sites in Scotland so volunteers can be easily paired-up with a local orchid population.

Flowering population sizes range from just one or two flowering spikes to several thousand and traps set at larger flowering populations stand the best chance of catching moths carrying orchid pollinia. The distribution map shows the 10 km squares containing Lesser Butterfly Orchid records submitted for the national survey in 2006 and 2007. The map is colour coded to indicate flowering population sizes:

small <50 flowering spikes (light blue), medium 50 to 150 flowering spikes (mid-blue), and large 150+ flowering spikes (dark blue).

If you are situated within range of, or are willing to travel to, a medium or large Lesser Butterfly Orchid population and would like to help with this exciting national survey by running a trap at the orchid population on a few nights during the weeks of the 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> June, please contact Andy Scobie (Cairngorms Rare Plants Project) for further information, e-mail: [a.scobie@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:a.scobie@abdn.ac.uk) or tel: 01479 810477.



## Winter Garden Moth Scheme

A handful of members of the Garden Moth Scheme (GMS) continued to trap weekly through the winter, with varying success. While one garden in coastal Dumfriesshire only managed 7 individuals of 2 species, another in rural Perthshire counted 161 of 16 species.

Most numerous was the Chestnut, a species which is active at any time during the winter months if the weather is mild enough, and was recorded in very large numbers in Spring 2010 (M. Cubitt (2010). *Entomologist's Rec. J. Var.* **122**: 197-199).

December Moth, Mottled Umber, Scarce Umber, Winter Moth and Satellite were all plentiful during the early part of the winter, while Pale Brindled Beauty and Spring Usher have been emerging earlier than last year, and seem to be doing well.

Eight years of West Midlands GMS results (with the rest of the UK and Ireland joining in since 2007) have identified winners and losers\*. Some may be short-term fluctuations, others long-term trends; they may be restricted to certain areas or reflected across the whole country. Membership of the GMS in Scotland continues to grow, but there is still room for additional recorders from any region, particularly under-represented areas such as Dumfries & Galloway, Argyll or the far North. It is not too late to take part in 2011, although recording has already started – anyone beginning to trap by March 28<sup>th</sup> will still be able to contribute records to the scheme – so if you are interested in finding out more, please get in touch.

\*Annual reports (2010 report due out in April) and newsletters are available in the Downloads section of the web-site at: <http://www.gardenmoths.org.uk/>

**Heather Young - GMS Co-ordinator, Scotland**

8, Coxburn Brae, Bridge of Allan, Stirling, FK9 4PS. Tel: 01786 832033

Email: [heather.young@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:heather.young@tiscali.co.uk)

## New Tayside & Fife id leaflet

We are delighted to tell you we now have a new Butterflies and day-flying moths of Tayside & Fife identification guide, available from the Stirling office (please send a SAE for a copy) and also of course will be available at our Recorders' Gathering on 26<sup>th</sup> March.



**Butterflies and day-flying  
moths of Tayside & Fife**  
an identification guide



Butterflies and moths are beautiful insects and a joy to observe. This guide will help you identify all the butterflies and some of the common day-flying moths that occur in Perthshire and Angus (outside of the Cairngorms National Park), Fife and Dundee.

The chart inside shows which species are on the wing at a given time, and suggests some of the best and most easily accessible places in the region for you to see them. We hope this leaflet will encourage you to learn more about these beautiful insects, and to send us your records.

## Fundraise for BC Scotland with Just Giving

Could you join the ranks of supporters who have held parties, run marathons, been tattooed and bungee jumped for us?

As mentioned above, BC Scotland member Grahame Boath is training to walk along the West Highland Way starting on Easter Saturday to fundraise for Butterfly Conservation. Follow his progress and admire his wonderful photos on his blog linked to his Just Giving page [www.justgiving.com/Grahame-Boath](http://www.justgiving.com/Grahame-Boath)

If you would like to undertake a personal fundraising challenge it's easier than ever to fundraise for Butterfly Conservation in Scotland. We have joined forces with Just Giving, the UK's first online fundraising website. It's easy (and completely free) to set up a fundraising webpage. It takes little over a minute to create a personalised fundraising page and sponsors' donations are paid directly to Butterfly Conservation. Visit the website [www.justgiving.com/butterfly-conservation](http://www.justgiving.com/butterfly-conservation) to create a page to start fundraising for your favourite butterfly or moth.

Alternatively email [fundraising@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:fundraising@butterfly-conservation.org) for any help including paper sponsorship forms, donation envelopes or cash collection boxes. We'd love to hear from you.

## Branch Events

We thought we would list all the Branch events that have been confirmed to date in this newsletter just so everyone can see what is happening Scotland-wide. These are of course also to be found on our excellent Branch websites:

**South West Scotland** – [www.southwestscotland-butterflies.org.uk](http://www.southwestscotland-butterflies.org.uk)

**Highlands & Islands** – [www.highland-butterflies.org.uk](http://www.highland-butterflies.org.uk)

**East Scotland** – [www.eastscotland-butterflies.org.uk](http://www.eastscotland-butterflies.org.uk)

### East Scotland Field trips 2011

All these daytime and evening events are aimed at introducing people to their local butterflies & moths and to help with identification, so beginners are very welcome. Whatever the weather on the day, they will be enjoyable and there will be plenty to see and learn.

#### **Borders**

Date	Event	Details	Contact
<b>Friday 29 April 2011</b>	Walk around Neville Morgan's woodland estate in the Yarrow Valley followed by coffee/wine and nibbles and moth-trapping session (from about 9.30pm for those able to stay late). Organised by the SWT Central Borders Members Centre.	Meet at Mill Lade, Hangingshaw, nr Yarrowford NT399299 (turn right off A708, ½ mile west of Yarrowford village). Start 7.00 pm till late.	Malcolm Lindsay 01896 753425 malcandles@tiscali.co.uk Consult <a href="http://www.borders-swt.co.uk/">http://www.borders-swt.co.uk/</a> for any late changes
<b>Saturday 21 May 2011</b>	Moth-trapping and identification evening at Duns Castle SWT reserve with a sizzling sausage barbecue. Part of Borders Biodiversity Week.	Meet promptly at 9.30 pm at the top of Castle Street, Duns (NT783542). Wear suitable clothing and bring a torch as the evening will go on until about midnight. Free for BC and SWT members;	Murray Henderson 01361 883216 and Barry Prater 018907 52037 barry@prater.myzen.co.uk

		£1 charge for others.	
<b>Saturday 21 May 2011</b>	Moth-trapping evening at Plora Wood. The largest area of ancient woodland in the Western Borders promises an interesting catch. As well as being attracted to light see how moths respond to sugar and wine! Part of Borders Biodiversity Week.	Meet at 9.30 pm in the layby at the entrance to Plora Wood on the back road between Walkerburn and Innerleithen (NT355367). Wear warm clothing and bring waterproofs and torch.	Reuben Singleton 01721 723858 reuben@dukehaugh.free-online.co.uk
<b>Saturday 25 June 2011</b>	Butterfly field trip to the Gordon Moss area to see Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries as well as Small Heath, other butterflies and day-flying moths.	Meet at 10.30 am and park at the entrance to the SWT reserve (NT636428). This is on a bend on the A6105 just beyond Greenknowe Tower to the west of Gordon village. There is a burn to cross so wellies are advised.	Barry Prater 018907 52037 barry@prater.myzen.co.uk
<b>Saturday 2 July 2011</b>	Butterflies, dragonflies and moths at Edrington - Large and Small Skippers, Speckled Wood and Banded Demoiselle plus (hopefully) the contents of the previous night's moth trap.	Meet and park at 10.00 am at Edrington Mains Farm (NT943546) which is on a track off a minor road from the A6105 just E of Foulden village. There is a 1km walk to the site which is steep in places and can be muddy, so come prepared.	Barry Prater 018907 52037 barry@prater.myzen.co.uk
<b>Saturday 30 July 2011</b>	Butterfly walk near Tweedsmuir to see Scotch Argus in an area where they were only discovered in 2010. Search for other species too. This event forms part of Save Our Butterflies Week 2011.	Meet at 10.30 am at NT098242. Leave the A701 at Tweedsmuir on the minor road to Talla and Fruid reservoirs. Pass over the bridge and park in clearing 200m beyond the crossroads. The walk may be boggy in places.	Alison McArthur 01968 682232 and Barry Prater 018907 52037 barry@prater.myzen.co.uk

### Lothians

**Sat. 21 May**, To Auchencorth Moss to see Green Hairstreak. This is a return to last year's rained-off outing. Meet outside the entrance to Auchencorth farm (NT201571) at 10.30 am. (contact; Richard Buckland, 0131-332 0615  
r.buckland@blueyonder.co.uk).

**Sun. 19 June**, a return to Easter Inch Moss outside Livingston. I last organised a field trip here in my second year of organising field trips in 1998, so it has been a long time! Meet at the entrance to the Moss at the Seafield end (NT005664) at 10.30 am. (contact; Richard Buckland, 0131-332 0615).

**Sun. 10 July**, to Moneynut Water/The Bell in the Lammermuirs to see whether a record of rock-rose proves to be a site for Northern Brown Argus. Meet at the turn-off to Middle Moneynut farm (NT728653) at 10.30 am. If this proves unsuccessful then we can call in at the Bell, on the Whiteadder Reservoir (NT566633) where we are almost certain to see the target species. (contact; Richard Buckland, 0131-332 0615).

### **Fife**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Contact</b>
<b>15 April</b>	Moth trapping at Cullaloe Nature Reserve	8.00 pm, meet at reserve car park on B9157, 1.5 miles north of Aberdour (NT186872).	Tim Brain 01577 840317
<b>15 May</b>	Benarty Hill to find Green Hairstreak	Meet at 2pm in the lay-by on the Ballingry-Kinross road, at grid reference NT166973.	Duncan Davidson 01383 730446
<b>20 May</b>	Moth trapping at Bankhead Moss	Meet at 9.00 pm. Contact Tim Brain for details.	Tim Brain 01577 840317
<b>TBA</b>	Moth trapping and butterfly walk at Auchtermuchty Common	Meet at the car park (NO236134) on the B936 about a mile north of Auchtermuchty. Times to be confirmed.	Kate Morison 07950 786245
<b>17 July</b>	Butterfly Walk at Holl Meadows	Meet at 2pm at the car park beside Holl Reservoir (NO224034). A great opportunity to see large numbers of Dark Green Fritillary.	Duncan Davidson 01383 730446
<b>7 August</b>	Butterfly Walk at Tentsmuir National Nature Reserve	Meet in Kinshaldy car park at 1.30pm. (NO498242).	Duncan Davidson 01383 730446

### **Perthshire**

**Sat. 25<sup>th</sup> June or 9<sup>th</sup> July.** Morning visit to Flanders Moss for Moths and Butterflies including Large Heath. This is a joint visit with Stirling SWT, and, in anticipation of greater numbers, will be led by the SNH Ranger.

We will meet at the car park (NS657979) at 9.30am. (Flanders is signposted off the B822 Thornhill to Kippen road around 8 miles west of Stirling).

**Sat. 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> August.** Trip to explore Drummond Hill for butterflies including the localised Speckled Wood. Meet at the car park (NN773461) at 10.30am and bring a packed lunch. Mainly on path but bring footwear suitable for muddy conditions.

Obviously, times and dates are still being finalised, so please check the branch website ([www.eastscotland-butterflies.org](http://www.eastscotland-butterflies.org)) or contact the organiser Lesley McCabe if you are considering attending. Lesley McCabe: [mccabelesley@googlemail.com](mailto:mccabelesley@googlemail.com) or 01738 622269.

### **Aberdeenshire**

Booking essential for all events – open to adults & accompanied children; may be small charge for some – please check with event contact. Bring stout footwear, appropriate clothing for weather conditions & on moth nights, sunglasses/wide-brimmed hat & torch recommended.

Additional moth recording sessions may be arranged by NE Scotland recorders at short notice according to weather forecast (emails circulated among network of local recorders).

General contact: Helen Rowe, South Marr Ranger, Aberdeenshire Council - email: [helen.rowe@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:helen.rowe@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) or tel: 013398 80868

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April** - 10.00am – 12.00noon

**MOTHS & MINIBEASTS SPRING SAFARI**

Discover the amazing moths caught in a live trap set overnight in Torphins Woods, look for other small creatures, plus find out about their lives such as what they eat & what eats them! *Event organised by Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service.*

MEET: Church car park, Torphins (Grid Ref: NJ 625020)

CONTACT: South Marr Ranger on 013398 80868

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May** - 8.30pm – late

**NIGHT WATCH**

Come & find out how to use smelly mixtures, bright lights & bat detectors to find marvellous moths & brilliant bats on a spring evening. *Event organised by Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service.*

MEET: Aden Country Park Natural History Cabin (in overflow car park), near Mintlaw (Grid Ref: NJ 983478)

CONTACT: Senior Ranger (North) on 01771 620132

**Sat 14th May – Deeside Pearl-bordered Fritillary Survey**, Burn O'Vat Visitor Centre.

There are a number of colonies of Pearl-bordered Fritillary in Deeside mainly at well known and regularly visited locations. The aim of this day, however, is to survey suitable habitat between these locations to help determine the true distribution of the butterfly. Meet at 10am at SNH's Burn O'Vat visitor centre (NO429996) which lies just a mile off the A93 between Aboyne and Ballater. After a brief introduction about the butterfly and a visit to a nearby colony we will split into small groups and survey new sites in the Aboyne/Ballater area.

Further details from Helen Rowe: Tel: 013398 80868 Mobile: 07787 583976 Email: [Helen.Rowe@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:Helen.Rowe@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) or Tom Prescott: Tel: 01540 661469, Mobile: 07979 785665, Email: [tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org)

NB: - In the unlikely event of inclement weather the event may be postponed to the following Saturday (21<sup>st</sup>)!

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May** - 10:00am – 12.00 noon

**JEWELS OF THE AIR**

Help record the variety of butterflies, moths, dragonflies & damselflies in Cambus O' May Forest on a short walk. There is a good chance of seeing scarce & beautiful Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterflies if the weather is fine. Please bring close-focus binoculars if you have them. *Event organised by Aberdeenshire Council & Forestry Commission Scotland Ranger Services.* MEET: Cambus O' May Forest car park, near Ballater (Grid Ref: NO 403980)

CONTACT: South Marr Ranger on 013398 80868

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July** - 10.00am – 12.00noon

**MOTHS IN THE MORNING**

Discover the marvellous moths caught in the live traps set up overnight on the Muir of Dinnet National Nature Reserve, followed by a search for day-flying moths & butterflies as time allows. *Event organised by Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service & Scottish Natural Heritage.*

MEET: Burn o' Vat Visitor Centre, near Dinnet (Grid Ref: NO 429997)

CONTACT: Catriona Reid (SNH) on 013398 81667

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> July - 8.30 pm - midnight**  
**A WILD NIGHT AT KINCORTH!**

Enter the mysterious world of night creatures! This will include setting up sugar & light traps to attract moths, then identifying & releasing them. *Event organised by Aberdeenshire Council & Aberdeen City Council Ranger Services.*

MEET: Kincorth Hill Local Nature Reserve car park, off Abbotswells Crescent, Aberdeen (Grid Ref: NJ 944030)

CONTACT: Aberdeen City Rangers on 01224 897400

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August**  
**BALLATER VICTORIA WEEK**

Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service plans to hold a moth & bat night during this annual festival – date TBC.

CONTACT: Ballater (RD) Ltd. on 013397 55467, [info@victoriaweek.org](mailto:info@victoriaweek.org) or visit [www.victoriaweek.org](http://www.victoriaweek.org)

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August - 7.30pm – late**  
**BENHOLM BATS & MOTHS**

Celebrate European Bat Weekend by finding out all about bats & the variety of nocturnal moths that are prey for some species. *Event organised by Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service.*

MEET: Mill of Benholm, near Johnshaven (Grid Ref: NO 806690)

CONTACT: Kincardine & Mearns Ranger on 01569 768292

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September (TBC)**  
**ACTIVE ABOYNE**

Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service plans to hold a moth & bat night, possibly in conjunction with an astronomy event during this annual festival – date TBC.

CONTACT: Mid Deeside Ltd. on 013398 85222 or visit [www.activeaboyne.co.uk](http://www.activeaboyne.co.uk)

**Highland Branch Field trips 2011**

**Sat 2nd April - Moth trapping trip to target the Rannoch Sprawler near Sluggan, Carrbridge**

Meet at 8:00 pm at the gate across the track to Sluggan off Station Road, Carrbridge, Grid Ref NH878216, OS Sheet 36. If you wish, bring moth traps, generators etc. though there should probably be enough. Will go on till midnight or for as long as people are prepared to stay. Further information from: Mike Taylor, Tel: 01479 831060, Mobile: 07757 607287, Email: [mst.taylor@btinternet.com](mailto:mst.taylor@btinternet.com)

**Sat 28th May - Pearl-bordered Fritillary survey, in conjunction with Forestry Commission Scotland in the Garve and Loch Achilty area.**

The aim of the day is to help establish the current location and size of the local PBF population. This will be useful to prioritise future management in order to enhance a sustainable meta-population. Meet at 10.30am at the FCS building at Contin Grid Ref NH453568 OS Sheet 26. Heading west out of Contin turn right at the FCS signs saying Torrachilty Forest, follow round the tarmac road and where it starts to open out again the new wooden FCS building is on the left. Tom Prescott will give an introduction to PBF surveying before groups spread out to their allocated survey sites. Tea and coffee provided but please bring a packed lunch. FCS are kindly providing refreshments at the end of the day!

Further details from Tom: Tel: 01540 661469, Mobile: 07979 785665, Email: [tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org)

**Wed 1<sup>st</sup> June - Polmaily to check for Pearl-bordered Fritillary and Dingy Skipper.**

A trip to see how last year's habitat management exercise has fared and to search for the two species it was designed to help. Meet at 10.30 at the end of the forest track into Polmaily - c2 miles west of Drumnadrochit on the A831 towards Cannich. Grid Ref NH484304, OS Sheet 26. Duration up to 4 hours.

Leader Mark Wynn:- Tel 01463 729977

**Sat 4<sup>th</sup> June - Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-moth survey at Bogbuie Wood, Black Isle, in conjunction with Forestry Commission Scotland**

Meet at 10.30am at the FC car park at the east end of Culbokie, Grid Ref NH611597, OS sheet 26. We will then share cars up to the wood as there is limited parking. Duration 4 hours plus. 14 Bee Hawks were seen in the wood last year and Dingy Skipper is also present and will be on the wing.

If suitable breeding habitat is found during the survey then a return trip in July will be organised to look for larvae, please check web site or contact Margaret Currie and Andy Scott for details, Tel 01349 877223.

**Sat 4<sup>th</sup> June at Ariundle National Nature Reserve in a hunt for Chequered Skipper among other species.**

Meet at 10.00 am at the Ariundle NNR car park which is along the track that branches right from the unclassified road leading north from Strontian. Grid Ref NM828634, OS sheet 40. Duration will probably be 3 to 4 hours but will rather depend on the weather. A Forestry Commission Environment Ranger will show us round. There should also be a good variety of other butterflies and day flying moths. For further details please contact

Pete Moore:- Tel 01479 872261, mobile 07866 578079, e-mail [theconfused@btinternet.com](mailto:theconfused@btinternet.com).

**Sat 11<sup>th</sup> June – Craigellachie NNR, Aviemore, for Pearl-bordered Fritillary and Green Hairstreak etc.**

There is no parking at the reserve, so meet at 10.30am at the car park at McDonalds Resort, grid ref, NH893123, OS sheet 36. To get there, drive south through Aviemore, then turn right just past the Cairngorm Hotel.

At the T-junction turn left, follow the road past the Aviemore Inn on your right then take the road on the right into the car park and park in the 1st couple of rows on the right. Duration 3 – 4 hours. Details about the reserve can be seen at <http://www.snh.org/publications/on-line/designatedareas/nnr/craigellachie/craigellachie.asp>.

The path we will be taking is steep and rough in places, so please wear suitable boots/shoes. For further details or a map to go with the directions please contact Audrey Turner:- Tel 07784000263, e-mail [unicorn64@btinternet.com](mailto:unicorn64@btinternet.com).

**Thur 23<sup>rd</sup> June - Flowerdale, Gairloch for moths and butterflies as part of Gairloch Wildlife Week**

Meet at 10.30 at the car park on the upper side of the A832 at Gairloch Pier, Charleston Grid Ref NG810751 OS Sheet 19 Duration about 3 hours.

Leader Tony Mainwood:- Tel 01408 633247, email [tony.mainwood@btinternet.com](mailto:tony.mainwood@btinternet.com)

**Fri 24<sup>th</sup> and Sat 25<sup>th</sup> June - Pine-tree Lappet survey Kiltarlity/Black Isle**

Further work to determine the current status of Pine-tree Lappet in pine plantations in the area. Again the focus will be on looking for new sites rather than confirming its presence at currently known sites. Meet at 8.30pm at the Brockies

Lodge Hotel, Kiltarlity (Grid Ref NH514418 OS Sheet 26). Depending on the number of people/traps/generators etc, we will split into groups and set traps in the locality. Please bring along any traps you have. To help us coordinate the survey effectively please can you let us know if you plan to come along. If you are unable to attend but keen to help look for this moth during its flight period (latter half of June into early July) then please also get in touch to arrange access permissions etc to trapping sites.

Leader Tom Prescott: Tel: 01540 661469, Mobile: 07979 785665, Email: [tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org)

### **Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> July Creag Meagaidh for Mountain Ringlet**

A trip to find this highly specialised butterfly at one of the prime sites. Meet at 10.00am at the Creag Meagaidh NNR car park grid ref NN483873 OS sheet 34. Tea and introductory talk by SNH staff. The visit will include a look through a moth trap run the previous night. Duration approx 3 hours but will run on if the weather is good and there is a lot to see so bring a packed lunch.

Leader Pete Moore:- Tel 01479 872261, mobile 07866 578079, e-mail [theconfused@btinternet.com](mailto:theconfused@btinternet.com)

### **Sat 9<sup>th</sup> July Dundreggan Estate, Invermoriston**

A trip to a very special place of ancient birch and juniper woodland with the local enthusiast. A range of butterflies and moths with the possibility of Welsh Clearwing and Goat Moth along with some insects including the rare Strawberry Spider.

Meet at Dundreggan at 10.00am at Grid ref NH333146, OS Sheet 34, 7miles west of Invermoriston on A887. Turn off at a small green sign 'Dundreggan Farm Private Road'. Car Parking is on the right about 100m beyond the cattle grid along this tarmac track. Advisable to bring wellies as well as boots as they might be needed for crossing a burn if there has been much recent rain. Duration ca 6 hours ie till 4.00pm. Leader Jane Bowman:- Tel 01320 340245.

### **Tue 12<sup>th</sup> July Insh Marshes RSPB Reserve for Moths, Northern Brown Argus etc.**

A mid-week walk to look for Northern Brown Argus and other butterflies. We'll start off by looking through a moth trap run the previous night. Meet at 09:30am at the RSPB Insh Marshes car-park, 2km out of Kingussie on the B970, past Ruthven Barracks. Grid ref NN776998, OS Sheet 35.

Duration approx 3 hours but will run on if there is a lot to see so bring a packed lunch.

Leader Pete Moore:- Tel 01479 872261, mobile 07866 578079, e-mail [theconfused@btinternet.com](mailto:theconfused@btinternet.com)

### **Sat 16<sup>th</sup> July Micro Moth Workshop at Aigas Field Centre with Mark Young and Roy Leverton.**

Tea/coffee and biscuits from 10.00am for a 10.30am start. A soup and sandwiches type lunch will be provided and there will be tea/coffee and biscuits in the afternoon with a 4.00pm to 4.30pm finish.

Photographs of micro moths and other tricky species for identification will be welcome and so will any already existing voucher specimens but please do not bring live moths.

The workshop is being funded by Highland Branch and there is no charge.

**BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL** with Tony Mainwood:- Tel 01408 633247, e-mail [tony.mainwood@btinternet.com](mailto:tony.mainwood@btinternet.com)

**Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Aug Loch Fleet NNR Open Day Moths and butterflies with Grayling one of the specialities.**

Meet at 10.00am at the car park at Littleferry, Golspie. Grid Ref NH806955, OS Sheet 21

Duration 1 hour 30 minutes on official programme but can be extended. Leader Tony Mainwood

**Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Sept Polmaily, near Drumnadrochit. Butterfly work party**

Another session of clearing scrub along the track side to benefit Pearl-bordered Fritillary and Dingy Skipper. Please wear old clothes and bring work gloves, secateurs, loppers and bowsaws if you have them. Further handtools will be available.

We will meet at 10.30 at the end of the forest track into Polmaily c2 miles west of Drumnadrochit on the A831 towards Cannich grid ref NH484304 OS Sheet 26.

The plan is to stay till about 16.00 but you can join in or leave whenever you want to. Every little helps so if you only want to come for an hour that will still be very welcome. For more info please contact

Tom Prescott: Tel: 01540 661469, Mobile: 07979 785665, Email: [tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org)

**Moth Trapping**

In addition to the events listed above there will probably be a number of moth trapping events organised through the summer and autumn. They will be announced nearer the time and will be listed on the branch website and sent out by e-mail, to those on the branch e-mail list, as details become available.

**South West Scotland Branch Field trips and events 2011**

Please check the branch website for further events and dates. All butterfly walks are dependent upon good weather. Check with organiser before setting off.

**Sunday 13th March, 10.30am-1.00pm.**

**Butterfly Transect Training day :Tollcross Park & Robroyston Park**

**Starts with Indoor talk at Tollcross Park, The Courtyard/Animal Farm, 254B Wellshot Rd, Glasgow, G32 7YH.**

Followed by **Walking the Transect at Robroyston Park LNR – Eastern entrance on Quarrywood Rd, Glasgow.** Training day to promote the monitoring of butterflies using a transect. Contact Jimmy Huis for further details and booking information on 07919 228 048 or [jimmy.huis@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:jimmy.huis@glasgow.gov.uk). Booking is essential.

### **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March**

#### **Wester Moss Action Day, Fallin, Stirlingshire**

10am - 3pm. Joint Butterfly Conservation/Stirlingshire ranger event to remove invasive scrub & conifers from the Wester Moss SSSI raised bog. This is a great location to see Large Heath butterflies later in the year. All welcome, although anyone who may find it difficult crossing very uneven, sodden ground, may not find this activity suitable. Please wear appropriate clothing (waterproofs), sturdy boots (wellies are best) and bring work gloves if you have them. Don't forget to bring a packed lunch if you're coming for the whole day. **Booking is essential.** Tel: 01786442464 / 817511 or email Jennifer at: [davidsonj@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:davidsonj@stirling.gov.uk)

### **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March**

#### **Butterfly Conservation Scotland Recorders' Gathering**

A day of talks focused on recording moths and butterflies in Scotland. Battleby Conference Centre, near Perth. Contact Shona for details: [sgreig@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:sgreig@butterfly-conservation.org)

### **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April or Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May (date to be confirmed)**

#### **Glasgow & SW Scotland Spring Members Day & Butterfly ID workshop**

Glasgow Museums Resource Centre. Nitshill, Glasgow. Talks on Butterflies and Moths, then brush up on your Butterfly ID skills with a training workshop suitable for beginners (and the more experienced too!). Contact Scott Shanks [scottshanks01@msn.com](mailto:scottshanks01@msn.com) (07793052501). 10.30am to 2pm

### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May**

#### **Green Hairstreak Butterfly walk at Loch Thom, Greenock**

Meet at 11 am at the Cornalees Bridge visitor centre car park, next to Loch Thom, Greenock. Grid reference NS247721. Walking boots or wellies required as ground boggy. For further details please contact Scott Shanks 07793052201 or [scottshanks01@msn.com](mailto:scottshanks01@msn.com).

### **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May**

#### **Small Blue reintroduction project work party at Gales Marsh, Irvine**

Conservation volunteering day to create habitat for the UK's smallest butterfly at SWT Gales Marsh, Irvine. Planting wild flowers. Take gardening gloves if you have them. Reserve is adjacent to the golf courses south of Irvine and can be reached via Marine Drive. Parking available beside the field gate at NS323360. Everyone welcome. Please contact Scott Shanks (07793052501) or Gill Smart [gsmart@swt.org.uk](mailto:gsmart@swt.org.uk).

### **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> or Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May (weather permitting)**

#### **Chequered Skipper Walk**

A walk through Chequered Skipper habitat at Glasdrum NNR, near Oban on the Saturday - Pearl-bordered Fritillary may also be on the wing. Meet at Glasdrum car park at 10.30am. Contact Scott Donaldson for more details: [scottedonaldson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:scottedonaldson@hotmail.co.uk). (07768156542).

### **July/August (tbc) (check branch website for details)**

#### **Scottish Moth Day & Night**

Get out recording day-flying moths in your local park or nature reserve and then join a public moth event in the evening. The first Scottish Moth night! Postcard survey to be launched for event too

### **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June & 2<sup>nd</sup> July**

#### **Habitat management work for Green Hairstreak and Small Pearl Bordered Fritillaries at Loch Ardinning SWT reserve, Strathblane**

Joint Butterfly Conservation/ SWT work party with reserve convener David Shenton. Between Milngavie and Strathblane. For further details contact Scott Shanks (07793052501) or David Shenton (0141 776 5506)

### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July**

#### **Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary Walk at Loch Ardinning SWT reserve. Between Milngavie**

### **and Strathblane (NS563778)**

Butterfly walk to record sPBF (and other species) at SWT Loch Ardinning, Stathblane. Parking on A81 Milngavie/Strathblane Rd. Wellies or sturdy walking boots recommended. For further details contact Scott Shanks (07793052501) [scottshanks01@msn.com](mailto:scottshanks01@msn.com)

### **Saturday 16th July – Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July**

#### **The Big Butterfly Count**

Spend 15 minutes recording butterflies and day-flying moths in your garden, park or local nature reserve. <http://www.bigbutterflycount.org/>

### **Tuesday 9 August**

#### **Bat and Moth night at Darnley Country Park**

Meet at 8.30pm at the Ashoka restaurant car park, Corselet Road, off Nitshill Road, Darnley. Wear suitable clothing & bring a torch. Contact Richard Bolton: Telephone: 0141 577 4053 or email [d2d@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:d2d@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk) to book your place.

### **Friday 26 August**

#### **Bat and Moth night at Glasgow Botanic gardens**

Meet at Main gate on Great Western Rd (NS569675) at 8pm. Very popular event. Note there is usually a small charge for those attending. Contact Paul Matthews [paul.matthews@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:paul.matthews@glasgow.gov.uk) for details.

### **Friday 9 September**

#### **Bat and Moth night at Darnley Country Park**

Meet at 7.30 pm at Patterton Train Station car park. Grid reference Meet at Patterton car park at 7.30pm, opposite Patterton Train Station, Stewarton Road, Newton Mearns. Wear suitable clothing & bring a torch. Contact Richard Bolton: Telephone: 0141 577 4053 or email [d2d@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:d2d@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk) to book

### **Saturday 30 October**

#### **Butterfly Conservation Scotland Members' Day**

Battleby Conference Centre, near Perth