

# PNNews



*Conservation Group for the Prestwood Region  
including Great Missenden, the Hampdens,  
the Kingshills, North Dean and Speen.*

**Issue 51  
January 2020**

## **Chair's Column**

One of my Christmas presents this year was a book by Dave Goulson, founder of the Bumble Bee Conservation Trust. He talks about the contribution people can make in their own gardens to mitigate the effects of climate change. It made me think how Prestwood Nature members should be involved in making our sites wildlife friendly.

We manage sites to encourage habitat for insects and other invertebrates which will support the range of wildlife essential for maintaining biodiversity in the countryside. Boug's Meadow is seeing more insect life than it has for years and the Pollinator Friendly Garden, even after the unfortunate vandalism, is providing habitat for more bees, butterflies and other pollinators than previously.

I hope I am preaching to the converted when writing to PN members, who probably joined us to develop ways of working that will benefit local wildlife in your own gardens as well as on the PN sites. So now we need to take the message to those who have not yet joined but are interested in the countryside.

One means of spreading the word is through our talks. This year the theme is 'pollinators' – who are they, where do they fit in and how can we encourage them? The talks in March and June concentrate on butterflies and bumble bees with two local experts who will reveal some of the lesser known facts about these fantastic insects. In November we hear about, of all things, flies! This talk will provide us with more information about these essential, and often beautiful, invertebrates!

To support the ideas from these talks we will organise walks led as usual by local members. We shall be looking for bees and butterflies in the hedgerows, birds by the lakeside, plants and fungi in the fields and woodlands, and even search for bluebells. I would ask that as well as supporting these events yourselves you invite friends, family and neighbours to come along with you, to see how we can all do our bit to stave off the climate emergency.

*Vanessa Rickett*

## **Contents**

Members' News	2-5
Chalk Streams	6
Flower Portrait Hazel, Filbert and Cob	7
Wonderful Waxcaps	8-9
Membership Secretary, Council Member Profile	9
Butterfly Transect	10-11
Council Contacts, Forthcoming Events	12

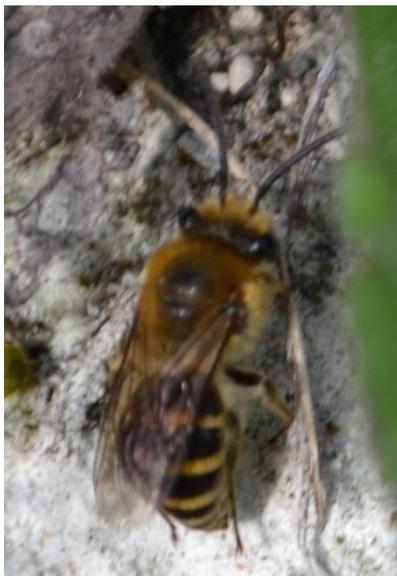


*Tree Bumble bee*

## Members' News



Butternut fruit and leaves



Ivy bee

A new project this year has been the sowing of a wildflower meadow over a large part of the churchyard at St Peter & St Paul, Great Missenden. Several visits in preparation provided some interesting records. On 5 September the churchwarden **Christopher Nickless** showed us a dead Pipistrelle on one of the pews in the church. These bats are commonly seen flying during congregations, apparently, roosting in the tower above. On the same day **Marilyn Fletcher** pointed out a large colony of Harebells at one corner of the church. This familiar flower is quite scarce in this area, so we excluded this patch from the planned planting. It seems to have vanished from Prestwood Picnic Site, but still grows in Holy Trinity churchyard. Molehills are very conspicuous SW of the church - another area we avoided for the meadow. Surveying the trees planted in the churchyard I found a Butternut, an American relative of walnut, its leaves looking at first sight like ash. It must have been planted some time ago, as it has reached a respectable girth of 1.64 metres. Specimens of this tree are not at all common in this country and it is threatened by a disease in its native habitats, so well worth preserving. (There is also a specimen in Priestfield Arboretum.) There were brown spots caused by the fungus Gnomonia leptostyla on its leaves, so given the scarcity of its host this is inevitably a rare fungus for us. At another corner of the church there were several fungi under a beech tree, including the Blue roundhead (more below), and the short turf already had the beginnings of a decent chalk grassland flora, so we avoided scarifying that part for sowing, putting in plug plants instead. This area will be mown occasionally to keep it relatively short, while the sown areas will be left to grow taller, scythed once a year in the autumn. It will be interesting to see how this experiment turns out and how well the sown areas respond over the next few years. It is not always easy to establish a flower meadow from scratch - but at least we did not have to battle with nettles and docks as at Boug's Meadow.

Insect populations have plummeted over the last couple of decades, although late summer this year saw a reasonable number of hoverflies and so on, providing us with a glimmer of hope for the future. On 5 September I had only our second record of the soldier-fly Twin-spot centurion in my garden. The larvae of this fly develop in cow-pats, which makes them vulnerable to chemicals used to treat certain cow diseases, but fortunately can also use rotting fungi, which would have been where they bred in this case. The newly immigrant Ivy bee has also established itself well, **George Lewis** reporting swarms of them on ivy blossom in his garden on 10 September, while a week later I saw hundreds of males swarming around the nest-holes of emerging females at the Picnic Site colony. At the same site on 5 October George watched females excavating new holes and storing pollen in them as food for the larvae, so we are set up for another good showing next autumn. On the same day I was discovering in my garden a new rove beetle for our records, Tasgius melanarius, just under 1cm long and dull black, which



Violet ground-beetle



Milk-thistle



.....Helmeted Guineafowl

breeds in compost and is probably much under-recorded, although the national distribution shows a concentration in the Midlands, East Anglia and the far SE, with few records in Bucks. A few days later I added another "first", a small beetle living in bracket fungi on trees, Ennearthron cornutum, this time at Hampden Bottom. Nearby was a Larch ladybird, only our second record and the first for 16 years; a Violet ground-beetle, a large and showy creature that was once common, but this was only my second sighting this century. Another first record was False chinchbug, which attacks cruciferous crops (i.e. in the cabbage family).

The last record occurred in the arable fields of Ian and Fiona Waller, which are now quite remarkable. When I first surveyed them ten years ago they were being managed in the usual way by extensive ploughing, but they have since been gradually moving towards a no-till regime, which allows an integrated soil structure to be established that has its own ecological community supporting new crops without the need for deep ploughing. After harvesting the main crop a mix of various plants is sown, some root-crops fed to the sheep (fodder radish), seed-crops for birds (buckwheat, oil-seed mustard, quinoa, triticale), nitrogen-fixing plants like clover, and even some pollinator plants such as phacelia. These are harvested in the autumn, but by extending the period of cover the soil is enabled to continue developing and building fertility. These crops included this year some interesting Mediterranean casuals rarely seen here, such as Cockspur grass, Small cleavers and Milk thistle.

While I am dealing with species out of place I can mention the three Helmeted Guineafowl that I first heard and then saw behind a hedge in a field by Stony Green Farm. They turned out to be escapes from the farm and Mrs Davis there told me that they regularly wander away from home, always to return when they get hungry! More significant avian observations were Stock dove in Meadsgarden Field (more reported recently and possibly becoming more common), a possible Goshawk flying low over Coach Hedgerow (although perhaps just a large female sparrowhawk, nevertheless one to look out for around Hampden Bottom), and what seemed to me to be an unusually early Redwing that **John Obee** had in his garden on 18 October.

Of course we are getting used to such unseasonal occurrences these days with all the climate disruption we are currently experiencing. **Colin Tyler** saw a Cowslip in flower on 13 September at Bougs and I had Marsh marigolds in bloom in my garden on 9 October. The spring toadstool St George's mushroom (named after the day on which it normally appears) was to be seen in several places this autumn.

The latest butterfly reported was on 29 November, a Red Admiral in **Christine Hoskins'** garden. As far as we know this was the last of the year, although it is always difficult to be sure when you see the last one, as there may be something later, unlike first appearances in spring when you know you



Red Admiral butterfly



Viviparous Lizard



Vulgar slug

have not seen anything before. Very few people report a *last* butterfly of the year (including me), so perhaps we should try a bit harder! Of course our butterflies and moths are still around throughout the year, but usually as pupae or caterpillars in the cold months, and you can always look for the conspicuous trails of leaf-miners as long as leaves are still on the plants. Many of these are larvae of micro-moths and I recorded a large number of new ones for us this autumn at Hampden Bottom (very few records does not mean they are uncommon, however, just that no-one is looking for them). I particularly looked for the tiny mine of the moth *Ectoedemia lousella* on the wings of field maple seeds and did not have to search too many before finding one. The seed itself had a hole in it, showing where a small weevil (*Bradybatus sp.*) had emerged: so two creatures living in one maple fruit!

Before I get round to the fungi, there are a few other good records of other creatures from this autumn. **Colin Tyler** saw Common toad at our Kiln Common Orchard on 13 September - toads have regularly been seen at the nearby allotments, so there is a well-established population here. No doubt the same applies to the Wood mouse that I disturbed from one of the compost bins at our wildlife garden there on 18 October. I saw our first Green huntsman spider at Hampden Bottom on 10 October. I was more surprised a month later, on 18 November, in the same region, when Val and I were putting out refuges to inspect next year for reptiles, to come across a Viviparous lizard, which you do not expect to see so late in the year. Lizards had not been seen on the farm before, showing that these secretive creatures often exist where no-one suspects. There have been hardly any reports at all of lizards from the Chilterns in the last decade. They did occur at the Picnic Site, but have not been seen recently, despite (because of?) lots of people visiting. On 24 August, just too late for the last newsletter, **Val Marshall** found our first Vulgar slug at Coneybank Wood. Finally - our last record of the year - I had our first Silver false-keeled slug feeding on a Stubble rosegill toadstool at Hampden Bottom.

Which brings me round finally to what you have all been waiting for, our autumn fungi. With all that rain you might have expected a good year for these damp-loving creatures, and so it was for some of them, with large displays of certain species, including some we rarely see. On the other hand, it did not suit them all. Our world-famous waxcaps, for instance, had a poor showing (though slightly better than last year), with only a moderate number of species appearing (no Pink Waxcap for the second year running), later than usual, and in small quantity. I say "world-famous" because on one occasion I encountered someone in Holy Trinity churchyard who had come all the way from New Zealand to photograph them as a result of my British Wildlife article. He got a few striking photos that he has allowed us to reproduce here. Some of the Holy Trinity specialities did crop up, like Earthy Waxcap from 25 October into November, Bitter Waxcap on 4 November, and Crimson Waxcap on 13 November. The usual rafts of club-fungi did not appear there either, except for a



Shaggy parasol



Magpie fungus

dense colony of Wrinkled club, but we did see some unusual species, including some seen there for the first time, like the fibrecaps Inocybe grammata and Inocybe hirtella, and the mushroom Agaricus depauperatus. **Beryl Doran** reported a Red-crack bolete from there on 16 October. Waxcaps occasionally occur elsewhere in unfertilised mossy short turf like old lawns, but I also found Snowy waxcaps in several fields of longer grass on chalk at Hampden Bottom, where I did not expect them.

Species that had a particularly good year included the large and striking Shaggy parasol, variety *bohemica*, a variety associated with gardens and high-nutrient areas, reported by **David Hillas** from Chequers Lane, by **Tina Hillas** from Lodge Lane, and **Fiona Waller** from near Hampden Bottom Farm. There was a large group in my own garden too. Another conspicuous toadstool is Trooping funnel, noticed by many people along roadsides, made more obvious not just by its size but also the large aggregations. There were also those great white balloons of Giant puffballs around, including some reported again by **Fiona Waller** from her farm, one of which she graciously allowed me to remove and which lasted Val and myself for two meals. I have unfortunately mislaid the name of the lady who first reported a ring of odd toadstools in the cemetery at Great Missenden. These took me some time to identify as I had not seen this species before, but they turned out to be White dapperling, which another member of the Bucks Fungus Group tells me was quite common in many places this year. While in the cemetery I also found lots of the webcap Cortinarius flexipes var. inolens and the brittlestem Psathyrella conopilus. Another frequent toadstool this year was the Blue roundhead, which appeared in some numbers on our Hampden Bottom Fungus Foray. This is normally a bright blue-green, but the abundant rain had washed off much of the coloured slime from the caps. Also alongside the arable fields was Stubble rosegill, with its pink gills and pouch at the base of the stem, not normally all that common (not like round the Mediterranean, where it is abundant). There were several notable species on the Fungus Foray, but the most fascinating was the bright red bleeding lump of raw flesh known as Beefsteak fungus, unearthed by **Fiona** from the hollow at the base of a veteran oak. From the same hollow she retrieved a "geocache", new to most of the foray party. If you want to know what that is, go to [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com). I have found a number of such geocaches in our area during my rambles: it is a popular activity involving many people from all over the world.

Other uncommon fungi were Tan ear (**Val Marshall**; like jelly-ear but darker), which grew in Peterley Wood, where we also found Fly agaric and Deathcap; Brown puffball and several other new species at Hampden Bottom; and the picturesque black-and-white Magpie Fungus by the side of Rignall Road.

Tony Marshall

## Chalk Streams Conference 2019

Back in 2014, Allen Beechey, (Chiltern Chalk Streams Project Officer) came to Prestwood Nature and gave us a very interesting and informative talk on chalk streams in general and specifically the Misbourne which runs through our Boug's Meadow site. This was my first real insight into their global rarity and how fortunate we are to have the Misbourne nearby.

Recently, I attended the Chiltern Society's Conference on "Chalk Streams of the Chilterns" along with many other interested and concerned people. Maybe the attraction was Feargal Sharkey OBE (lead singer with rock band The Undertones in the 1970's and 80's). He is a passionate supporter of chalk streams and is also actively campaigning to protect them. He gave a very interesting speech packed full of information. He has clearly done a tremendous amount of research and understands the issues involved.

The majority of the world's chalk streams are found in England. They are under increasing threats on several fronts

- i. Drought - 63% of the Chalk Stream habitats in the Chilterns AONB are currently dry. The River Misbourne is dry for around 55% of its total length with groundwater levels at their lowest ever recorded in some areas.
- ii. Abstraction – our drinking water comes from the chalk aquifer. The Chilterns has the highest water use in Europe (173 litres per person per day compared to a 142 litres pp UK average [*stats from the Energy Saving Trust*]). We can play our part by reducing this.
- iii. Increases in development and population adding to the demand for water.

Those on the panel responding to Feargal's points and questions from the audience included Rachel Fletcher (Chief Executive Ofwat), Harvey Bradshaw (Executive Director - Environment & Business, Environment Agency) representatives from Thames and Affinity Water, as well as Allen who was also able to explain where his love for these rivers came from. Like many locals, myself included, it was paddling and or fishing in these streams as a youngster.

If we're to save the Misbourne and other chalk streams, we need to consider our use of water. One surprising fact to come out of the conference was that a hose pipe ban is deemed to be a failure and yet it could be a part of the solution. While there is no ban in place many people assume or forget that there isn't a water shortage and therefore don't use water as a precious resource. Other options are being considered, including reviewing building control regulations to ensure water conservation methods are included in new building developments.

The last time I saw the Misbourne really flowing strongly through Boug's Meadow was in April 2014. It was truly a wonderful sight to see. The last few years the pond at Mobwell (the source, opposite the Black Horse Pub) has barely had any water in it. Unless we act together this isn't going to improve.

Let's aim towards getting our chalk streams back - we're in danger of losing a precious resource and a natural environment.

Jenny Smith



*Last filling of the Misbourne 2015*

*PS Councillor John Gladwyn confirmed that the Misbourne aquifer is gradually refilling again thanks to heavier rainfall and reduced extraction. Perhaps this scene will become possible again in 2025?*

## Flower Portrait No.24 - Hazel, Filbert and Cob

Our native Hazel *Corylus avellana* is familiar to most people, both as the source of some of our earliest flowers - the yellow male catkins that produce pollen as early as January sometimes - and as a source of free fruit in autumn (if the squirrels have not already taken them when still unripe). The female flowers are bright red but very small and close to the twigs, so less obvious, though it is these that will give rise to the nuts. The nuts clearly emerge from the ragged calyx, which is split to the base into two halves.



Hazel catkins & female flowers



Hazel nuts

Not all hazels you find in our hedgerows are necessarily our native species, however, particularly close to residential areas and orchards. A foreign species *Corylus maxima*, known as the Filbert, has been widely introduced for its larger nuts, often planted in the boundary hedges of orchards. This has very distinct fruit with the nut entirely enclosed by the calyx, which is split only on one side. On average the leaves and catkins are also larger. It is fertile and spreads naturally into the wild. It also readily hybridises with our native hazel to produce intermediate forms with the calyx only split once but partially open, often with spectacularly ragged tips. Such hybrids were also deliberately grown, known as Cob-nuts or Kentish cobs, and they also hybridise with native hazels to form a continuum of intermediates.



Filbert



Cob-nut

The whole range of hybrids from filbert to hazel can be seen in the southern hedge of Prestwood Picnic Site. There are also some splendid examples of the hybrid in the hedge on Nairdwood Lane by the recreation ground.

Wonderful Waxcaps at Holy Trinity Churchyard September 2019 Photographs by Robin Bush



*Hygrocybe coccinea*



*Hygrocybe fornicata*



*Hygrocybe nitrata*



*Hygrocybe mucronella*



*Hygrocybe pratensis*



*Hygrocybe russocoriacea*



*Hygrocybe psittacina*

## PN Council News

### From the Membership Secretary

A reminder that membership renewals are now due. Please complete the membership form, which you can find online at <https://prestwoodnature.org/membership.html> and return it to me with payment.

There are 3 easy ways to make payment:

1. We prefer it if you can send £8 by bank transfer to the Prestwood Nature account at Lloyds, Sort Code 30-91-91, Account 00909028. Please put your full name in as the reference and don't forget to let me know by emailing [membership@prestwoodnature.org](mailto:membership@prestwoodnature.org).
2. If this doesn't work for you, send your completed membership form with a cheque for £8 made out to Prestwood Nature to Helen Matthews, 17 Peters Close, Prestwood, Great Missenden, Bucks HP16 9ET.
3. If all else fails, bring your form and £8 in cash to me at the above address. Thank you in advance for your prompt renewal. It's only 2p per day for the whole family! Where else will you get this value and support nature and conservation at the same time?

Many thanks.

Helen Matthews

Membership Secretary

#### Council Member Profile Tim Pye

I can first remember being involved with a nature group when, as a child, I joined the Young Ornithologists Club and took part in bird spotting walks. I went on to do a degree in biological sciences focussing on botany and ecology. I then worked for about a year for the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology including projects on soil fertility and use of marginal land. I needed to get a proper job and worked in clinical research, and later IT, as well as being a father. I maintained a low level of interest in nature, until a few years ago I gave up paid work and moved to Little Kingshill. When out jogging, I discovered Priestfield Aboretum, became a volunteer in the friends group and am now the curator. I also joined Prestwood Nature and was invited to join the council. I am currently the events coordinator and, last year, I was involved in producing a unified risk assessment document for working parties and other events. I am a 'citizen scientist' with the British Trust for Ornithology and contribute to their survey of garden birds. Having finished most of the improvements on our house, I now hope to spend more time on PN working parties, convert the Priestfield friends group into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and just enjoy the natural world around us.



**The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service** will be held in 2020 by Paul Heath. He has served in several guises over the years including a stint on the Council as membership secretary before ill health stopped him from taking such an active role. Since then he has been in the forefront of negotiations with HS2 over their plans for Boug's Meadow and the Link Road, liaised with the Landscape Partnership over Rough around the Edges project, plus working untiringly for the Meadow and has even found time to go Balsam Bashing on the Misbourne.

## PN BUTTERFLY TRANSECT 2019

Weather conditions were suitable for butterflies in only 19 of the 26 weeks available from 1 April to 30 September. Some good weeks were interspersed with wet and cool weather throughout the year, apart from August when temperatures were regularly above 20°C, although still often cloudy. Transect walkers were *Virginia Deradour, J Horwood, Chris Lee, Dorian Leroy, Sue Longman, Tony Marshall, John Obee, David Page, Phillip Pratt, Sue Reynders, Colin Tyler, and MJ Webster.*

### Overall numbers

The total of individuals seen flying was 2403, the fifth highest total since we began, but the number of different species equalled the best figure we have had (in 2011). If the weather had been more suitable for them to fly, we would have got a very respectable total, but the variety seen, including several uncommon species, showed that most butterflies were in fact doing quite well - something we had predicted in the 2018 report on the basis of good second broods in the late summer.

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Individuals	3191	730	1327	2020	2263	1679	1008	2353	2812	2858	1426	2004	2617	2403
Species	25	21	22	24	24	27	20	23	25	22	22	24	25	27

After a surge of peacocks in the very first week of April, spring was dominated by brimstones and orange-tips until the common blues emerged around 21 May, although they only had a short spring season. Numbers only really picked up in late June when the Meadow Browns and Marbled Whites emerged, joined by Ringlets right at the end of the month. Gatekeepers did not emerge until mid-July. The highlight of the year was around 22 July when there were 16 species flying and overall numbers peaked at 540. After that it was all downhill, apart from a good second brood of Common Blues starting to emerge at about that time and persisting well through August. Only six weeks yielded over 100 butterflies (24 June to 2 August), a shorter peak than last year.

As always, the most numerous species was Meadow Brown with 1093, accounting for almost half of total numbers. While the Meadow Brown had a reasonably good year, numbers of all other species were no more than average - 2019 coming ninth out of the 14 years so far.

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Meadow Brown % of total	54.5	39.6	50.1	37.9	30.9	33.9	57.6	34.3	39.1	44.7	33.1	50.8	33.7	45.5
Nos. of Meadow Brown	1739	289	665	766	700	570	581	808	1099	1277	472	1018	881	1093
Nos. of other species	1452	441	662	1254	1563	1109	427	1545	1713	1581	954	986	1736	1310

Species that did better than average in 2019 were mainly the "browns" - Speckled Wood, Marbled White, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Ringlet and Small Heath. These are all species whose caterpillars feed on grasses and they have all been doing particularly well from 2013/2014. This coincides with a change of practice in management of Meadsgarden Field and Stonygreen Bank, leaving more long grass later in the year, which enables more larvae to feed up and pupate before being mown off. This seems to be an important finding, showing the importance of long grass for conservation of these, on the whole our most common, butterflies.

### Differences between sections of the transect

As usual Meadsgarden Field north of the Picnic Site had by far the highest total of individuals (871) and also the highest number (19) per 100m (to allow for the different lengths of transect sections). It was followed in the latter respect by the other chalk grassland sites - the field to its north (White Hill, 14), Stonygreen Bank (14) and the Picnic Site (10) - the only sections to have more than ten butterflies per 100m averaged over all the weeks. In terms of numbers of different species, these sections also predominated, along with the lane along the top of Denner Hill. As usual, the highest number of species was seen at the Picnic Site (24), with Meadsgarden Field next with 19. The Picnic Site was the only section where Dingy Skipper was seen. It has usually been the only section for Brown Argus, too, but this year, just like last, it turned up at Stonygreen Bank and the field on Denner Hill opposite the Picnic Site as well.

### *Trends for different species*

As transect has been going 24 years, we are now just able to get some idea of the major trends for each butterfly. The Holly Blue is well-known to have large cyclical fluctuations in its numbers from year to year, reflecting the build-up certain parasites that eventually radically reduce numbers of their host and are themselves subsequently reduced in population with the scarcity of the host. These cycles are exhibited in our data, with peak numbers in 2006/2007, 2010, 2015 and 2019 and small numbers in between those years. Even more obvious in our data is a very similar pattern for the Common Blue, with sudden peaks occurring regularly every four years in 2010, 2014 and 2018 (i.e. about one year ahead of Holly Blue). It is likely that they are similarly affected by parasites, probably small wasps and ichneumons. The Small Copper, a relative of the blues, shows a similar, if less pronounced, pattern with highs in 2006, 2010, 2013, and 2017/2018.

Such parasites are common for all our butterflies, but their effect is probably only evident where butterfly numbers are moderate - those with large populations, like Large White and Meadow Brown, being able to even out such fluctuations and achieve an uneasy equilibrium. Numbers of these common species therefore reflect closely the weather conditions from year to year, with all becoming more common in more favourable years (or rather in the years following favourable ones, affecting the fortunes of the larval generation).

The warmth-loving "nymphalids" most directly reflect conditions in the same year, as they need plenty of sunshine to induce them to fly. Their populations are also boosted in some years by immigration from warmer climes, particularly Red Admiral and Painted Lady, so that their peaks are quite unpredictable, dependent on conditions abroad as well as at home. There was said to have been a major national influx of Painted Ladies this year and we saw a minor increase in their numbers locally, with 2019 being above average, although not particularly exceptional.

Our rarer species did quite well this year (i.e. sometimes one or two rather than none at all!) – with Dingy and Grizzled Skippers both in evidence (our first year for the latter appearing on the transect, although they have always been seen occasionally at the Picnic Site from time to time), Green Hairstreak, Brown Argus, Dark Green and Silver-washed Fritillaries (the former the first since 2011). The slightly more common Small Heath also did well, this year being its third best so far.

### *Butterfly of the Year*

Each year we celebrate a butterfly that has done exceptionally well in the past year, with its best showing so far. The accolade this year, for the first time, has to go to one of our rare species. The **Brown Argus** reached a total of ten this year, having never exceeded four in past years and often not recorded at all. Whether this is a real increase or just shows that our transect recorders are becoming more expert at spotting it amongst the very similar female Common Blues, I am not sure. Either way, that seems something to celebrate. It is limited to chalk grasslands, all of them being seen at the Picnic Site and Meadsgarden Field, apart from one on the field north of Meadsgarden. With stronger numbers this year we may yet see them colonise Stonygreen Bank next year.



Brown Argus

*Tony Marshall*

## PN Council and Contacts 2020

Council members 2018	Phone	Email	Project
Chris Jolly	865017	<a href="mailto:jolly916@btinternet.com">jolly916@btinternet.com</a>	Newsletter Distribution
Colin Tyler	NA	<a href="mailto:treasurer@prestwoodnature.org">treasurer@prestwoodnature.org</a>	Treasurer
Helen Matthews		<a href="mailto:membership@prestwoodnature.org">membership@prestwoodnature.org</a>	Membership Secretary
Jenny Smith	866426	<a href="mailto:admin@prestwoodnature.org">admin@prestwoodnature.org</a>	Secretary
Julie Hopton	07931575371	<a href="mailto:juliehopton421@btinternet.com">juliehopton421@btinternet.com</a>	Family Activities /Talks
Ross McVean	890229	<a href="mailto:ross871@hotmail.co.uk">ross871@hotmail.co.uk</a>	
Tim Pye	07768337619	<a href="mailto:timpye77@gmail.com">timpye77@gmail.com</a>	Events Coordinator
Val Marshall	864251	<a href="mailto:newsletter@prestwoodnature.org">newsletter@prestwoodnature.org</a>	Hedges Trees/Newsletter editor
Vanessa Rickett	866516	<a href="mailto:chair@prestwoodnature.org">chair@prestwoodnature.org</a>	Chair /Kiln Common Orchard
<b>Other contacts</b>			
David Page	863176	<a href="mailto:pageshouse@aol.com">pageshouse@aol.com</a>	Holy Trinity, PNNews printer
Fiona Waller	862686	<a href="mailto:fionacwaller@gmail.com">fionacwaller@gmail.com</a>	Sheepwash pond
John Obee	865564	<a href="mailto:jk333@btinternet.com">jk333@btinternet.com</a>	
Karen van Oostrum	07910684339	<a href="mailto:karenjvano@outlook.com">karenjvano@outlook.com</a>	Family walks
Philip Pratt	523869	<a href="mailto:highbeeches1@yahoo.co.uk">highbeeches1@yahoo.co.uk</a>	PN reserve/Chiltern Society
Sylvia Bennett	866302	<a href="mailto:sylvia@mrbennett.co.uk">sylvia@mrbennett.co.uk</a>	Butterfly Transect
Tony Marshall	864251	<a href="mailto:records@prestwoodnature.org">records@prestwoodnature.org</a>	Surveys/Wildlife records
<b>Other Sites</b>			
Angling Spring Wood		<a href="mailto:admin@prestwoodnature.org">admin@prestwoodnature.org</a>	Angling Spring Wood
Bougs Meadow		<a href="mailto:admin@prestwoodnature.org">admin@prestwoodnature.org</a>	Bougs Meadow
Pollinator Friendly Garden		<a href="mailto:admin@prestwoodnature.org">admin@prestwoodnature.org</a>	Kiln Common

## Dates for your Diary 2020

Thursday, February 13 8:00pm – 9:45pm

### **Bumble Bees in your Garden**

Prestwood Village Hall, Wycombe Rd., Prestwood

Talk by John Catton (Bumble Bee Conservation Trust volunteer)

This is a Prestwood Gardening Society Event and there may be a charge

More info <https://www.bbowt.org.uk/events>

Tuesday, March 3 7:30pm – 9:30pm

### **Butterflies and their Place in the Environment**

Damien Hall, Great Missenden HP16 9AA

A talk by Nick Bowles, Chairman, Upper Thames Branch of Butterfly Conservation

Sunday March 15 9:30am – 11:30am

### **Spring Bird walk**

Leader John Obee Walk around Shardeloes Lake to look for migrating and other birds

Meet at the Crown Little Missenden, wear sensible shoes/dress for prevailing weather.

We regret that no dogs will be allowed as even the most obedient may disturb the birds.

More info: John Obee 01494 865564

Sunday April 5

**Spring Flower walk** - tba - see PN website for details

Sunday April 26 10:00am-1:00pm

### **Work party at Bougs Meadow**

Tools, refreshments, help and instruction available.

Complete regularly-updated information available on our website [www.prestwoodnature.org.uk](http://www.prestwoodnature.org.uk)