

**Birmingham
Natural History
Society**

Founded 1858

Registered Charity No 500819

President: Ms Kat Clifford

Internet address: <http://bnhsoc.org.uk>

NEWSLETTER No 108 – June 2016

Annual General Meeting: 2016

This year's AGM was held on 15 April, with 13 members attending. Officers and Members of Council, Auditors and Nominee Trustees were all elected as proposed on the Calling Notice. Copies of the 2015 AGM minutes and of the accounts can be sent to members who were unable to attend, by request to the Hon Secretary. The AGM was followed by a talk by the President, Ms Kat Clifford, on 'Small and medium-sized cats of the world'.

Ian Duncan, Peter Seal, John Tilt, Roger Wasley and Mike Williams (editors), *Butterflies of the West Midlands* (Pisces Publications for West Midlands Branch of Butterfly Conservation), 2016, vi + 154 pp, softback, £18.95, ISBN: 978-1-874357-72-8

The core of this excellent book provides detailed accounts of all of the 41 butterfly species regularly recorded in Birmingham and the Black Country, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire and Worcestershire.

For each species there are colour photographs of the four life stages – egg, larva, pupa and adult (including both sexes) – with helpful notes on identification, distribution maps on a 5 km square basis, indications of national and West Midlands status, time of year when each stage can be seen, and the food plants used by the caterpillars. These are followed by an account of life cycle, history, habitat and conservation, all with additional photographs.

These species accounts are prefaced by essays on climate; geography, land use and habitats in the region; a history of the West Midlands Branch of Butterfly Conservation; a history of butterfly recording; and how to garden to support butterflies.

And after the species accounts there are comments on extinctions and rare migrants, details of 25 'butterfly walks', graphs of regional population trends 2005-2014, advice on how to get involved, a bibliography, a list of websites, and tips on how to find and photograph butterflies.

Ian Duncan, who co-ordinated publication on behalf of West Midlands Butterfly Conservation, says, "By publishing this book we hope to raise awareness of the problems facing many of our butterflies, some of which are continuing to decline. We also wanted to show how, by taking effective conservation action, many species can recover and continue to flourish".

This is a wonderfully informative book, well-written, and produced with Pisces Publications' usual superb design and attention to detail (only three trivial copy-editing mistakes were noted!).

Highly recommended, therefore, all the more so because all proceeds from the book's sale will go on to help the conservation of butterflies and moths in the West Midlands.

Peter Jarvis



WARWICKSHIRE FUNGUS SURVEY: Programme for 2016

Sunday 4 September 2016

10.30 am Pooley Fields VC 38, Landranger sheet 140. Turn off the B5000 at SK258023 into Pooley Lane and follow the signs to the Heritage Centre at SK259033. Parking: £1.50 up to 1 hour, £2.50 over 1 hour/all day. The pay machine is located by the Visitor Centre, not in the car park, and correct change is needed £2, £1, 50p, 20p, 10p coins.
Contact: Clare Hinchliffe. (0121 449 8330)

Sunday 18 September 2016

10.30am Packington Park, VC38, Landranger sheet 139, Explorer 221. Enter the park at the main entrance at SP224830 on the A45 eastbound carriageway, go over the deer grid and park immediately on the left on the grass at SP224831. We will be able to run a shuttle service up to the Park Meadow, leaving parking space for the fishermen. We have been asked to make a collection towards the maintenance of the church.
Contact: Kay Reeve. (01926 632400)

Sunday 2 October 2016

10.30am Temple Balsall NR VC 38 Landranger sheet 139. Park outside cemetery on minor road off B4101 at SP204759.
Contact: John Roberts. (01926 421544)

Sunday 9 October 2016

10.00am Coombe Abbey Country Park VC 38, Landranger sheet 140. The main entrance is on the B4027 Coventry to Brinklow Road at grid reference SP404790. This is a UK Fungus Day event, organised by Coombe Abbey Country Park. Meet at the Visitor Centre, which opens at 10.00am. Participants willing to aid with the identification of difficult fungi on the day would be rewarded with free car parking.
Contact: Paul Hodges at paul.hodges@coventry.gov.uk

Saturday 16 October 2016

10.30am Upton House NT, VC 38, Landranger sheet 151. Meet in the National Trust car park at SP370461. Forayers should be admitted free of charge, providing we send them a list of records.
Contact: David Antrobus. (0121 422 8830)

Sunday 23 October 2016

10.30am Coughton Park Wood, VC38 Landranger 150. Meet at barrier to woodland ride on lane between Coughton and Sambourne at SP066610, parking will be through the barrier.
Contact: Bert Brand. (01789 267402)

Sunday 30 October 2016

10.30am Waverley Wood VC 38 Landranger sheet 140. Park on ride inside recessed gate off A425 (take care - fast traffic!) at SP351710.
Contact: John Roberts. (01926 421544)

Sunday 6 November 2016

10.30 am Edge Hill near Ratley, VC 38, OS sheet 151. Meet at the lay-by beyond the junction where the minor road from the A422 meets the B4086 at grid reference SP 381 483.
Contact: Dave Champion. (07896 752138)

Sunday 20 November 2016

10.30 am Alvecote Wood, near Tamworth, VC38, Landranger sheet 139, Explorer 232. Meet at the car park in the wood off Robey's Lane at SK249035. Dogs are not allowed, except guide dogs.
Contact: John Williams. (0121 745 6395)

Sunday 27 November 2016

10.30am Leam Valley NR VC 38 Landranger sheet 151. Park in the car park off A425 at SP334652.
Contact: John Roberts. (01926 421544)

Sunday 8 January 2017

10.30 am AGM.
Contact: John Roberts. (01926 421544)

If you want to attend a foray, please inform the contact person a few days beforehand. This will ensure that you do not arrive at a foray that has been cancelled or moved to a different location. The contact person will send a reminder by email to group members two days before a meeting. Please reply stating your intention to attend the meeting or not. If the contact person decides to cancel a meeting, he will notify group members by email.

After a foray, please check *A Fungus Flora of Warwickshire* and the additions to the Flora or the contact person to confirm that any of the less-common species that you have collected have already been recorded for the County. If they have not, PLEASE KEEP DRIED MATERIAL for the herbarium.

Please send lists of species that you have found on the forays in Warwickshire to John Sells, 57 Craven Avenue, Binley Woods, Coventry CV3 2JS or David Antrobus. Where possible, please state the habitat and associated trees and plants for each record. If you find an interesting fruiting of fungi, and think that others would be interested, please ring John Williams at the number below. It may be possible to arrange a foray at short notice. Permission has been obtained from landowners to collect for scientific purposes. In the interests of conservation, please do not collect more specimens than necessary for your personal use. We do not encourage collection for culinary purposes on our forays.

The Warwickshire Fungus Survey is affiliated to the British Mycological Society. Our web address is:
<http://wfs.bnhsoc.org.uk/>

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To contact the Hon Secretary or to provide copy for the next Newsletter:

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SAVE paper, printing and postage costs: could members let me know if they would be happy to receive the Newsletter by email. Many thanks to the increasing number of members who have already done this.

