



## Newsletter No.48 October 2013



Welcome to the newsletter of the South Down Group which gives details of meetings from now until April 2014 - plus a number of events that we think may be of interest to local members. There are some Nature Notes, Tree News and a few bits of other news from local volunteers and members of the Horndean Biodiversity Group. There is a lot more about local wildlife on the websites and links mentioned below. Our next newsletter will be produced in February 2014, this will include a brief review of 2013. The editor (JV) would welcome your comments, pictures etc by 31st Jan. 2014. Thanks.

### Meetings and Events in the South Down Group area from October 2013 to April 2014

- Wednesday 16th October**      **"Bringing Butterflies Back from the Brink"**      7.30 - 9.30pm  
An illustrated talk by Dr Dan Hoare of Butterfly Conservation - includes ongoing action and local projects to save the vulnerable species at risk in our area of S.E. Hampshire. Venue: St Wilfrid's Hall, Padnell Rd., Cowplain PO8 8DZ. (Turn East off the old A3 in Cowplain and the hall is 200 metres down Padnell Road on the left, parking behind church.) Admission £2.50 including refreshments. More information on 02392592711 or e-mail p.leversha@btinternet.com
- Saturday 19th October**      **HIWWT's 52nd Annual General Meeting** held at Winchester Guildhall 10am - 3.30pm  
**Saturday 26th October**      **Butterfly Conservation - Hants and I of W Branch** members day at Littleton Village Hall.
- Thurs 31 Oct to Sat 2 November**      **"Fungi in the Forest"** 10am-4pm each day - Free admission, no booking needed. Meet at the New Forest Reptile Centre in Lyndhurst. Short fungal forays are led by members of the Hampshire Fungus Recording Group, forays start at 10.30am and 1.30pm each day. A good opportunity to find out more about fungi in an area rich in fungi species, some very rare. More info from JV or in Plantlife Issue No.66
- Wednesday 20th November**      **"Ponds for Wildlife"**      7.30 - 9.30pm  
An illustrated talk by Dr Naomi Ewald on the surveying and conservation of aquatic life with a closer look at some of the local ponds especially some of our members garden ponds. Held at St.Wilfrid's Hall, Cowplain (details on 16 Oct.above)
- Wednesday 27th November**      **"From the Depths of the Pond"** 7.30pm Another evening on pondlife with an illustrated talk by Richard Osmond, an expert on freshwater biology held by our neighbouring HWT group at the Drama Studio, Warblington School, Southleigh Road, Havant PO9 2RR. Further details from Andrew Powling on 02392258457
- The South Down Group does not hold any meetings in December.
- Wednesday 15th January 2014**      **"The Wildlife of Madagascar"**      7.30 - 9.30pm  
Alan Key and Deryn Hawkins will present illustrated talks about the fascinating variety of wildlife seen on their recent visit to Madagascar. To be held at St Wilfrid's Hall, Padnell Road, Cowplain (details as under 16 October above)
- Wednesday 22nd January**      **"The New Forest Non-Native Plants Project"** 7.30pm An illustrated talk by Catherine Chatters, the Trust's Non-Native Plants Officer. To be held at the Drama Studio, Warblington School, Havant
- Saturday 15th February**      **"Hampshire Moth Conference"** 12.30 - 6pm Details on Hantsmoths website.
- Wednesday 19th February**      **"The Joys of Hampshire Woodlands"**      7.30 - 9.30pm  
Richard Hedley will give an illustrated talk on the wildlife, history and beauty of Hampshire Woodlands including Chappetts and Shutts Copse. To be held at St Wilfrid's Hall, Cowplain (details as under 16 October above)
- Wednesday 19th March**      **"Bugs and Beetles of the South Downs"**      7.30 - 9.30pm  
An illustrated talk by Dr Jonty Denton - on the creatures that are often overlooked in our gardens and local nature reserves. To be held at St Wilfrid's Hall, Cowplain (full details as under 16th October 2013)
- Wednesday 26th March**      **"Flora and Fauna of Hampshire"** 7.30pm An illustrated talk by Gordon Small, wildlife photographer. To be held at the Drama Studio, Warblington School, Havant (further details as for 27 November above)
- Wednesday 16th April**      **"Recording the Wildlife on your Doorstep"**      7.30 - 9.30pm  
An introduction by Dr David Rumble for everyone wishing to learn more about the wonderful biodiversity of this area and those helping to record the local fauna and flora. Preceded by a brief Annual meeting (AGM) Details as under 16 Oct.

**HORNDEAN BIODIVERSITY GROUP** The HBG is working closely with the Horndean Parish Council Rangers to bring together all those keen on observing, recording and conserving the local wildlife in and around Horndean and most of the Group are also members of the HWT South Down Group. We are now nearing completion of a Biodiversity Action Plan for Horndean, this is an important document calling on local knowledge, help and enthusiasm to conduct surveys and to promote projects that will help to conserve our local wildlife habitats against all the current threats.



Included in this newsletter are *Nature Notes*, *Tree Planting and Diseases*. More news on trees and ponds in November

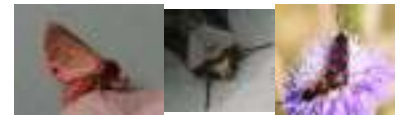
## NATURE NOTES

It has been an unusual year for wildlife with cold, hot, wet and dry weather with a very late start but apart from timing many species of plants and animals have put in a good appearance including many migrant insects such as the Clouded Yellow butterfly.

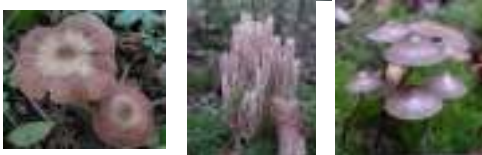
**BUTTERFLIES in 2013** Notes from John Nundy - The end of the butterfly season has now arrived, autumn is now here and many butterflies will have mated and laid eggs and now disappear into hibernation, demise or migration. Overall 2013 has been a better year than 2012 for butterflies; recently we have seen an influx of Clouded Yellows migrating from France. Small Tortoiseshells have been seen in large numbers throughout the year. Large and Small Whites, common Blue, and Speckled Wood have been out in good numbers. White Admirals have been absent this year, however Silver-washed Fritillaries have shown up well in the Holt and now a small but well established colony are at Catherington Lith. The above photo (by JV) shows part of a large number feeding on Hemp-agrimony flowers in The Holt on the 23 August 2013.



**Moth News** Notes from John Vigay - Moths are around throughout the year but for the first 4 months few came to moth traps or were seen in daytime. Tiger moths were target species this year, JN had a Garden Tiger come to his trap and JV had a Ruby Tiger come to his trap in July (1st picture to the right with an unusual view of the brightly coloured underside). Second picture shows a portrait of the Spectacle moth that also came to light on 23 August. JN had a number of Hawk-moths come to his trap with Poplar, Privet and large and small Elephant Hawk-moths. Finally 2 species of day-flying moths were common this year; the Silver-Y moth and the Burnet moth, seen in the 3rd picture of Burnets feeding on Scabious flowers on Catherington Down. Overall around 70 species came to our traps during the summer but some sessions had to be cancelled due to unpredictable weather. JN hastens to add that all moths are released unharmed into the night.



**FUNGI** There is no doubt that this is an excellent year to see fungi in all shapes and colours. Pictures are all fungi spotted in Clanfield woods at the beginning of October by the volunteer group. Over 20 species were seen, many in huge numbers. The middle picture shows a Ramaria or Coral fungus and on the right Maiden's Bonnets. At the end of October there are some fungi walks in the New Forest being organised by Plantlife, led by members of Hants Fungi Recording Grp. Will help with IDs



Details on the Events Page above. There are simply fungi everywhere !

## Fruits, Nuts and Berries

Also an exceptional year as shown on BBC 'Countryfile'. All our local nature reserves and hedgerows are really loaded, especially blackberries and sloes on the blackthorn. Also it is a bumper year for healthy acorns, hawthorn and rose-hips. Some of the acorns are on trees that are under 20 years old, although many acorns have become distorted by the Knoppa Gall wasp which has also had a good year.



## TREE NEWS - TREE PLANTING

**SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER** is the date when we are planning to complete the final stage of tree planting in Jubilee Field, Horndean. As in the original plan we will be planting about 12 standard trees, mainly Oak, Field Maple and Small-leaved Lime. As last November volunteers will meet in Jubilee Field at 10 am near Jubilee Hall. We hope for better weather this time. It is important that we know how many are coming so **please confirm by ringing (or E-mail)- John Telford on 023 92597766 or JV on 92592647** There is parking in the field and refreshments will be provided as before. This date falls within National Tree Week.

**TREE DISEASES** A newsheet will be sent to members in November giving details of local concerns and problems with tree diseases, pests and alien plants which more than ever needs the public to keep an eye out if any problems arise. This year there have not been any cases of Ash disease in this area. Trees are now shutting down for the winter but the many threats to our trees remain. NL48 October 2013 p.2

### Group contacts

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