



Newsletter No.53 October 2015

Hampshire & Isle of Wight
Wildlife Trust
Protecting wildlife. Inspiring people.



Welcome to our Autumn newsletter. Included are details of local meetings and talks. Nature Notes and details of activities and records during the year, see more on www.horndeanbiodiversity.co.uk

Meetings and Events in the South Down Group area from Oct.2015 to April 2016

Our Wednesday meetings below are all at St.Wilfrid's Hall, Padnell Rd, Cowplain (PO8 8DZ)
7.30 to 9.30pm. Admission £3.00 to pay for the hall etc Refreshments are included

Wednesday 21st October

"The Amazing World of Spiders"

7.30 - 9.30pm

Simon Moore, a member of the British Arachnological Society will give an illustrated talk on spiders and their place in the natural world. *Please do not be put off by this subject - you are sure to be in for a really interesting evening on a subject that we've not attempted before!*



Wednesday 18th November

"The Work of the Trust's Marine Conservation Team"

7.30pm

Mud, Maps and MCZs - An update on the work of the Trust's Marine Team.

There is no meeting of the South Down Group in December. The local committee wish all our members a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and look forward to meeting again in January 2016

Wednesday 20th January 2016

"The Wildlife of Namibia"

7.30pm

Andrew Watts will give an illustrated talk on the flora and fauna of Namibia's **Etosha National Park**

Wednesday 17th February

"Wildlife Secrets South of Butser"

7.30pm

John Vigay joins with local wildlife photographers to show the results of their recent studies of the lesser known species that inhabit our wonderful local countryside including some very small species that are frequently overlooked but still are an important part of our biodiversity. Will also include some of the species recorded at the "Bioblitz" held at Dell Piece West Nature Reserve in June 2015.

Wednesday 16th March **"An update on the work & projects of HIWWT and SDNPA"** 7.30pm

The Trust's Area Head of Conservation talks on the co-operation between other local environmental organisations such as the SouthDowns National Park Authority on the protection of wildlife.

More information about the South Down Group Activities contact any of the following :-
Peter Leversha on 023 92592711 or E < p.leversha@btinternet.com > or
John Vigay on 023 92592647 or E < wildlife@vigay.com > or see on www.wildlife.vigay.com
Horndean Biodiversity Group contact E-mail < horndeanbiodiversitygroup@gmail.com >

Vacancy for Group Treasurer Sadly Pennie is standing down as our Treasurer after the March meeting and her final Audit. Peter will be announcing this at meetings. The SDGroup is now looking for Pennie's replacement and would welcome a volunteer to take over next April.



News and Nature Notes

Autumn 2015

Report on the "Bioblitz" at DPW

Local HBG members, experts and volunteers braved the elements on the 12th and 13th July to record as many species of plants and animals as possible over 24 hours. Nearly 500 species were 'ticked' on the list, 70% being plants. A good number of beetles, flies and moths were recorded that are new to the list. Had the moth traps run all night and not been drowned out then no doubt there would have been many more. Many of the insects were photographed by Stuart Ball and John Vigay during the event, a small selection is shown here. A full list will be posted on the websites and in Nature Notes and will be illustrated at the SDGroup meeting on Wednesday evening, 17th February 2016.



Fleabane Tortoise Beetle
Cassida murraea



Rhopalid Bug
Coryzus hyoscyami



Peppered Moth
Biston betularia



Common Swift Moth
Korscheltellus lupulina



Marsh Snipefly
Rhagio tringarius



larva of Vapourer Moth
Orgyia antiqua

Wild Flowers - Ups and Downs

This year there has been a magnificent display of **Cowslips** at Catherington Down. Photo 30.4.15. Another point in favour of introducing the Duke of Burgundy Fritillary. Seed has been collected again this year (available from JV). A little white flower seen on the Down on the lower terrace is **Fairy Flax**. Two plants that have not done so well are **Heath Speedwell**,



almost absent from DPW (very good for day flying moths and bees) and there seems to be less Bird's-foot Trefoil that may account for the scarcity of Common blue butterflies this year. These two mating blues were seen on Windmill Hill on 7th June.

Moth Night 2015 was on 10-12 September this year. Moth traps were set up on Catherington Lith on the first night and in two local gardens on the second night

Here the traps were left on all night. Many moths, especially 'Micros' are still being identified, a full report needs to be sent in to the organisers (BC/Atropus) by Sunday 29th November 2015.

The next Moth Night(s) will be on 9-11 June 2016

Catherington Beech Tree for the chop Sadly the landmark beech outside Catherington Infant School (opp. car park) was



felled in August due to decay from Ganoderma fungi etc. A replacement is being considered for next winter planting if a suitable site is found. More info from JV.



The Tree Bumble Bee *Bombus hypnorum*

This Bumble bee was newly found in the southeast in 2000 and is rapidly spreading across the UK. It has

been spotted at several sites in Horndean and to my surprise a swarm has taken over a blue tit nest box placed on an apple tree in our back garden. The nest has also been noticed by a woodpecker, the blue tits found an alternative box!

Hoverflies in your Garden Slow progress is being made, the larger and more spectacular species doing the best. There have been many reports of large numbers of a small hoverfly with orange and black stripes. This is the UK's commonest hoverfly the Marmalade Fly, *Episyrphus balteatus*



Above: *Eristalis* sp 18/7/15

Living Record Records for Hoverflies, Bees, Wasps and Moths will be sent in to HBic via Living Record.net. As a start JV is entering Moths and Hoverflies at two localities, his garden including the wild garden extension and Dell Piece West. Summary lists will be made for the year. Many thanks to Roger Marriott and Adrian Bicker for their help and time given to set up the complex map locations. Roger has recently produced details of the numbers of butterflies recorded 1st April to 30th September 2015 by volunteers at the six Horndean butterfly Transect areas as well as dates on which each species was first recorded this year. Lists are available to members on request by E-mail.

This newsletter and the Nature Notes will be posted on the websites. (see below)

The next Newsletter and Nature Notes will appear in February 2016 and will as usual have details of meetings ahead. There are no meetings in December. The first meeting in 2016 will be on the third Wednesday in January. Please let Deryn know if you change your E-mail address or do not wish to remain on the mail list to horndeanbiodiversitygroup@gmail.com

More information on wildlife & events in Southeast Hampshire are on the following websites

Hampshire and IW Wildlife Trust	-	WWW.hwt.org.uk
John Goodspeed	-	WWW.havantnature.net
Ralph Hollins	-	WWW.homepage.ntlworld.com/ralph.hollins/
Horndean Parish Council	-	WWW.horndeanpc-hants.gov.uk /countryside.
Rotherlands Cons. Group. Petersfield	-	WWW.Rotherlands.co.uk
Bluebell Woods, Clanfield	-	WWW.bluebellwood.wesnetservices.co.uk
Horndean Tree Register	-	WWW.HorndeanTrees.co.uk
Yoells Copse, Lovedean	-	WWW.yoellscopse.co.uk
South Downs National Park	-	WWW.southdowns.gov.uk
The Sustainability Centre	-	WWW.sustainability-centre.org
HWT- South Down Group	-	via WWW.wildlife.vigay.com
Horndean Biodiversity Group	-	WWW.horndeanbiodiversitygroup.co.uk