

Saving butterflies, moths and our environment

**Butterfly
Conservation**

**HERTFORDSHIRE &
MIDDLESEX BRANCH**

Branch Review of 2024

BC Herts & Middx Branch use this Review as the way of providing feedback to Branch Members about our activities over the past year. Despite no longer holding a formal AGM, it is important that Branch members continue to have the opportunity to confirm their support of the Committee in these activities, and so the (re-)election of Branch Committee members will take place during Members' Day on 12th April (see below).

- If you are accessing this document electronically, then it contains some hyperlinks to source information. These are depicted as **blue text** – clicking on these will take you to the linked target.
- If you are reading this as printed copy, then the internet location of each of these information sources is displayed after the blue text and between square brackets e.g. [<http://www.sometext>]

The full Members' Day programme can be accessed [here](#).

[[https://hertsmiddx-butterflies.org.uk/Programme for Members Day 2025.pdf](https://hertsmiddx-butterflies.org.uk/Programme%20for%20Members%20Day%202025.pdf)]

Members' Day will take place at the Greenwood Park Community Centre, Tippendell Lane, Chiswell Green, near St Albans on Saturday 12th April, and we do hope you will be able to join us. Doors open at 10.30am, with sessions starting at 10.45am. Sandwiches and pastries will be available free of charge for lunch, but of course donations towards the costs will be welcomed. The scheduled close is at 4.30pm.

Chair's Report – Malcolm Hull

The last year has been a very mixed bag. The Branch has continued to flourish, with more members than ever and an excellent recording effort, culminating in the Annual Report. Our butterfly walks and winter talks programs have been well supported. And we have been applying our knowledge well, contributing to many dozens of site-specific management plans as well as wider policy documents. Butterfly Conservation is respected in our area as an authoritative voice.

Our head office has struggled in a challenging financial climate. **Funding has been much reduced** - staff numbers are down by nearly 25% and conservation projects are being curtailed. We already knew that the successful Big City Butterflies project would end in March, and I will update on other implications for the Branch at Members Day. A full review of our national strategy is required, and this will be taking place over the next year. It includes a review of the roles of volunteers, reserves and branches.

Last year I outlined our ambitious plans for increasing our habitat work in five key **landscapes**. We have made steady progress in preparing plans and these are now complete for the areas covered by the Herts Chilterns, East Herts Brownfields and the North and West London Urban Fringe (including parts of South Herts). We have made good progress at contacting landowners, some of whom are now implementing butterfly friendly habitat management. However, we have not yet been in a

position to bid for external funding to employ staff and make larger scale impacts. This will remain a target for the coming year.

Meanwhile **butterflies have been having a torrid time**, with lousy Spring weather impacting the success of many species. One very bright spot was Brown Hairstreak spreading into Herts from the Southwest and showing every sign of becoming an established species. Another was the excellent Zoom talk from Leslie Williams and Steve Bolton, showing how well butterflies are doing in Greater London. [You can watch a recording [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fPYjVgz20Xk). [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fPYjVgz20Xk]

Most of the hard work running the Branch is carried out by the **Committee** and we are very fortunate to have such a dedicated and hard-working team.

Ian Small has stood down as our Newsletter Editor, though remains as our Membership Secretary. Many thanks to Ian for all the very many hours he has spent at the computer and printer over many years. I am pleased to report that Edie Abrahams has agreed to take over the role starting with the Spring edition, which should reach you soon.

In February we received the sad news of the death of Margaret Noakes. Margaret was a founder-member of our committee in 1995 and played an active part, most recently as my Vice-Chair, until five years ago. She was instrumental in the acquisition and management of our nature reserve at Millhoppers Pasture. Several of us attended her funeral and we are planning a suitable memorial to Margaret and her husband John at the Reserve.

Big City Butterflies – Paul Busby

The Big City Butterflies (BCB) project is coming to a close after four successful years. The Branch has supported this project, since the initial concept meeting in 2016. It has covered the inner London Boroughs, being funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Butterfly Conservation.

The focus has been on engagement, conservation and recording, led by two Project Officers and in collaboration with a huge variety of partners, the project saw the delivery of a busy programme of site advice visits, training workshops (covering identification, survey techniques and habitat management), school workshops and public and community-based engagement.

Over the lifetime of the project, BCB has engaged over 12,000 people and delivered community outreach in every Inner London borough. The project has delivered 96 school workshops, engaging over 1,950 children. Taking place mainly in primary schools, the workshops included meeting live butterflies and moths up close and learning about the habitat requirements and lifecycles of butterflies. 19 schools benefitted from additional planting for pollinators in their school grounds, providing opportunities for pupils to learn in a greener environment and experience nature up close.

The project has recorded more than 20,000 butterflies of 28 species in the heart of London and the scheme also recorded more than 1,200 moths of 150 species in parks, allotments, graveyards and community gardens. Butterfly recording transects have successfully competed at Gladstone Park, White City Parks, Wormwood Scrubs and Hackney Buzzline pollinator trail. A final end of project conference was held at Waterlow Park including workshops, walks and talks.

Over four years, Butterfly Conservation's project helped to create or improve 72 sites for butterflies and moths across London, including 27,000m² of wildflower meadow. The project also planted 88 trees, 511 shrubs, and 2,757 flower pots and flower plugs, and the team helped councils and community groups write 30 management plans. Project resources including An Urban Management Guide and London Identification are available on the Butterfly Conservation website.

A documentary link to the project is [here](https://youtu.be/c3jEfkkaL1A). [https://youtu.be/c3jEfkkaL1A]

TRANSPORT FOR LONDON (TfL) - WILD ROAD VERGES

Second year of butterfly monitoring completed by volunteers and reports issued to TfL

Although pro-rata the number of butterfly records decreased per survey, as seen in 2024 annual/Branch decline, the sites with at least two years of reduced mowing and cut and collect have performed better than the newly established sites. Monitoring of sites will continue in 2025

- 2024 - Impressive 101 surveys across 31 sites were monitored from May to September 2024.
- 2024 - over 400 butterflies over 100 surveys across 4 months were recorded.

In December, A40 site in Hillingdon seeded with yellow rattle and wild flower seed mix with representatives with TfL.

Secretary's Report – Liz Goodyear

Last year's Members' Day was held at Greenwood Community Centre - a new venue for this event. It is slightly smaller than the Welwyn Civic Centre but has a kitchen area by the main hall which is much more convenient. The provision of sandwiches and pastries were well received and appreciated and will be repeated in 2025. The keynote speaker was Pete Eeles and his books; Life Cycles of British and Irish Butterflies (2019) and British and Irish Butterfly Rarities (2023) proved to be very popular purchases!

Our committee meetings are still held virtually and we met five times in 2024. As I said last year holding meetings via Zoom makes it so much easier for those Branch members living in the far corners of our area; even country to participate – we really do need some new committee members to ease the work load of the existing members? The role out of Assemble has also enabled us to place successful adverts for specialist helpers.

Butterfly Walks, Moth Events & Talks – Liz Goodyear

We had a fourth season of evening Zoom meetings with butterfly- or moth-related presentations, and again we had excellent speakers. Attendance improved in 2024 and even more people are watching the presentation after the event on our [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/@hertsmiddxbutterflies) was much higher. [https://www.youtube.com/@hertsmiddxbutterflies]

A full programme of walks was arranged in 2024, but several were affected by poor weather which was very disappointing for all concerned. We did not use Eventbrite during 2024, in part because they imposed a fee for free events where 25 or more people were attending. In 2025 they have revoked this charge which shows to some extent that boycotting their booking system paid off! Although setting up the website entry and monitoring the actual bookings is time consuming, we do feel that attendance levels are better and we are able to reach a new audience. Please check the walks programme when it is published to see which walks will need pre-booking.

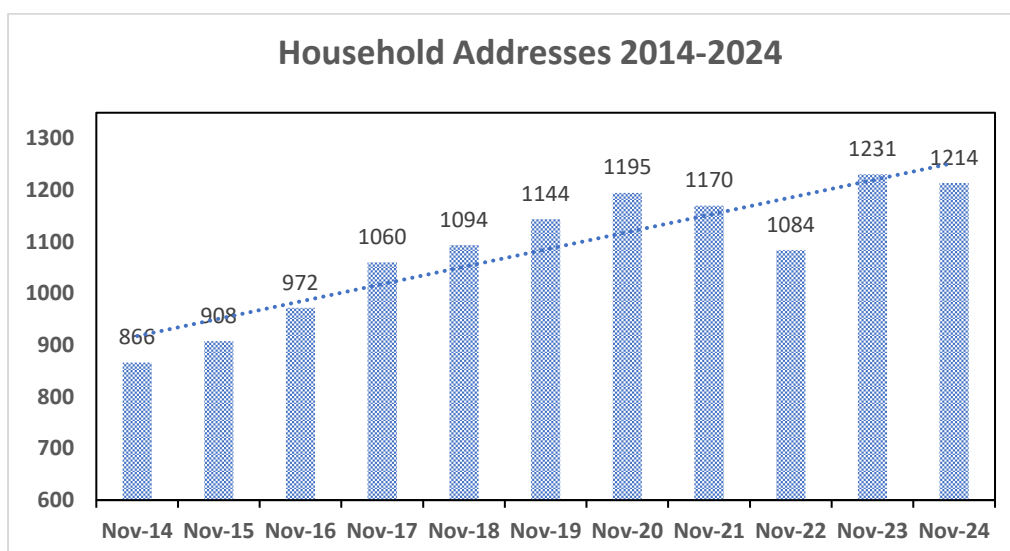
At the beginning of 2025, we held three Brown Hairstreak surveys/training mornings including the first ever known successful egg hunt in Hertfordshire. All were well attended and we also managed to choose relatively nice days although they were all pretty cold!

Membership Report – Ian Small

Last year I commented on the significant delay between a member joining and that information being passed to the Branch – this usually comes through in the 1st or 2nd week of the month following the one in which a member joins. I try to reach out to new members as soon as I am notified but recognise that this may be up to 6 weeks after they have joined the Society – please accept my apologies if you have been unhappy with the lag in receiving your Branch welcome.

That situation changes from now onwards, and all communication with members will be mediated by Head Office. BC have decided that, in order to comply with Data Protection legislation, it will no longer share member contact information with Branch membership secretaries. Our Branch welcome information will be sent directly to new members by Head Office, as part of their overall welcome to BC – this will happen within a week or so of their joining, so that at least is a positive step.

The awful weather throughout most of 2024 not only had a detrimental impact on our butterfly populations, but also severely impacted the recruitment of new members to the Society. The graph below compares the number of household addresses for Branch members each November for the past 10 years. At the end of November there were 1214 household addresses on the database, representing a net decrease of 17 over the year. Those households represented 1625 individual Branch members. Over the 12 months of 2024, we had 130 new households join (a drop of almost 50% compared to 2023). The relatively high number of lapsed arises from many joining BC on a 1-year free offer or for a discounted fee, so there are always a proportion who don't convert to full membership once their discounted period expires.



Communication with Branch members is now largely conducted via e-mail, using the Head Office mailing system, which is linked to the main Society membership database. We use this method to send the links to the Branch newsletters and to share information about all our events. Please ensure that you inform BC of any change to your e-mail address (or provide one if you are yet to do so). As we need to use the Head Office e-mailing system, it is also important that you have not opted out of receiving e-mail communication from Head Office. Please also check your Spam filter in case messages are being blocked.

Branch newsletters are published twice a year – in Spring and Autumn. The majority of members access these electronically, via the links that are sent out, but about 10-11% of our members

continue to receive these as a hard copy, either because they have explicitly requested that format or because they have not provided BC with an e-mail contact address. The reduced expenditure on postage and stationery resulting from defaulting to electronic delivery allows significantly more of the membership subscription income to be directed to actual conservation activities. Copies of all previous Branch newsletters are available on the Branch website. Given the ever-increasing costs of postage and stationery, we are understandably keen to minimise these costs in order to maximise our ability to fund conservation activities.

I am very pleased to be able to confirm that I am handing over the **Newsletter Editor** role to Edie Abrahams. I have been editing / producing / distributing the newsletter since December 1997 (issue 12; the Autumn 2024 version was issue 89!), so a change, and new blood with fresh ideas is long overdue. Please join me in thanking Edie for taking on this role - I am sure you will give her your full support going forward.

Branch Website, Facebook, Bluesky, Instagram & Threads – Peter Clarke & Liz Goodyear






Species accounts were updated: to accommodate butterfly records submitted for 2023, to resize and reposition distribution maps and phenology charts, and add links for larval hostplants to the Plant Atlas website. The horizontal menu bar for each webpage was cleaned up including the use of a new 'archives' webpage for news items and sightings. The copyright option was added to the news item form for use with photographer credits other than the submitter of the news item. The butterfly sites webpage is now more up-to-date but is subject to revision.

9637 users visited our website in 2024 up by 22% on 2023. The webpage attracting the most hits during 2024 was the news/sightings page with 23937 in 2024 compared to the 'old' sightings page count of 15313 in 2023 (+56%). The Home webpage was hit 17660 times during the year way down on the 2023 figure but higher than that in 2022. The Events and Butterfly Sites webpages attracted 1488 and 432 hits respectively in 2024. A significant rise of 278% occurred for the Species Accounts webpage – 1233 in 2024 compared to 433 in 2023.

Towards the end of 2024, the committee approved the opening of a Bluesky account – a social media platform similar to Twitter/X but with a much friendlier audience. Since Butterfly Conservation at a national level has set up their own Bluesky account (@savebutterflies.bsky.social) we will phase out use of Twitter/X but will still retain the profile and existing posts.

We also set up a Threads profile linked into our Instagram account – this however doesn't seem to be picking up many new followers. Our Instagram page now has 315 followers – posts tend to vary from promoting an event or some interesting butterfly or moth news. The Threads profile has a word restriction so it isn't as user friendly as Instagram! Our Twitter/X feed reached 1355 followers in March 2025 having been set up ten years ago in 2015; however, our Bluesky profile had already reached 667 followers in a matter of only a few months as well as receiving good responses to our posts. When posting on Bluesky a Branch-related tweet do remember to include **@bc-hertsmiddx.bsky.social** in the text or tag the Branch into an image. There are also a lot of moth recorders contributing - to find these posts follow Teammoth and add it to your 'feeds' and include #teammoth to any moth related post. The Facebook page continues to reach new audiences with now over 2.9k followers and 2.7k likes! Our YouTube channel, which was launched in March 2021 now, has over 164 subscribers and nearly 10,000 views! Recordings of our Winter Zoom presentations are very popular. A reminder we use Facebook and Bluesky to inform members of forthcoming events or short notice changes to the programme.

Please remember and save the links to our Social Media outlets:

	Facebook	[www.facebook.com/ButterflyConservationHertsMiddlesex]
	Bluesky	[https://bsky.app/profile/bc-hertsmiddx.bsky.social] @bc-hertsmiddx.bsky.social
	Instagram	[https://www.instagram.com/hertsmiddxbutterflies/]
	Threads	[https://www.threads.net/@hertsmiddxbutterflies/]
	YouTube	[https://www.youtube.com/@hertsmiddxbutterflies]

Publicity – Alex Lewis

The highlight of my press and publicity work in 2024 came in January, courtesy of the Herts Advertiser, which distributes to homes across the St Albans and Harpenden area.

My press release highlighting how the Centurion Golf Club’s planning application to add an extra ten holes threatened a wood supporting White Admirals generated a front-page lead story in that newspaper.

We all hope this publicity will push the planning officers to reject the applications– as of March 2025, it is still “under consideration” according to the council’s website. This decision is now more than a year overdue – so it seems I have at least given them something to think about.

I had only modest success generating similar publicity for the 2023 annual Butterfly Report, but thanks to Malcolm’s good relationship with the editor of the St Albans Times website, we managed to generate a story highlighting the alarming recent decline for the Small Tortoiseshell.

I am also preparing a press release inspired by our 2024 Annual Report, highlighting how it exposes worrying declines in most species, providing solid evidence that there is now a national Butterfly Emergency..

If any members would like to draw my attention to issues that could generate similarly useful news stories, I hope they will please email me on lemsfordalex@gmail.com

Engagement – Andrew Wood

One of our aims is to work with other organisations to raise awareness of butterflies, moths, and their conservation. This can be by giving practical advice on conservation, training for recorders or by delivering talks and presentations. This is a selection of these activities in 2024/2025

Conservation Advice

- Herts and Middx Wildlife Trust – Astonbury Woods, Waterford Heath
- Letchworth Garden City Heritage Trust
- West Hyde - HS2
- Broxbourne Wood - HCC, HMWT, Woodland Trust
- Hexton Manor Estate - Natural England
- Boxmoor Trust - Westbrook Hay
- Southern Country Park Bishops Stortford - Friends Group & CMS

- Bushey Open Space, Bushey - HMWT
- Enfield Chase Landscape Recovery - HMWT
- Suttons Farm GP, Hatfield Quarry - Cemex and HCC
- Serge Hill, Bedmond - Tom Stuart-Smith
- Land at Ruislip Depot, Ickenham - Tfl
- Berkhamsted Common - Trustees
- Pancake and Hockeridge Woods - Berkhamsted TC and Royal Forestry Society
- Verulamium Park St Albans - Rewilding old golf course - CMS
- Batchwood Golf Club St Albans - St Albans DC & site manager
- Highfield Park St Albans - Trustees
- Tring Park - Woodland Trust
- Bricket Wood Common - Munden Estate
- Shrubhill Common - Dacorum Council
- Redbourn Golf Course - Golf Club and HMWT
- Sandridge PC - Jersey Farm
- Merry Hill Bushey - Woodland Trust
- Various farmers in the Beane Valley and North-east Hertfordshire
- Private farmland visit with FWAG near Barley to give advice for Four-spotted Moth and Small Blue habitat management
- Site visit to Parsonage Wood, near Welham Green ahead of responding to a Green Space Action Plan (GAP)
- Engaged with the Ruislip Woods Trust after being contacted over the destruction of grassland and a hedgerow habitat - a potential Brown Hairstreak site
- Prestwick Road Nature Reserve, Oxhey to locate and mark Brown Hairstreak eggs prior to rescue ahead of blackthorn scrub management. Future habitat advice given.
- Site visit to Grove Farm NR Sudbury Hill to location Brown Hairstreak eggs for the Trustees of the Friends Group and give habitat management advice.

Management Plans

- Chilterns National Landscape Plan - comments
- Croxley Common Moor Greenspace Action Plan (GAP)
- Alban Way St Albans GAP
- Lea Valley Way Harpenden GAP
- Kinsbourn Green Common - Trustees
- Berrygrove Wood, Aldenham GAP
- Chorleywood Common GAP
- Post Wood GAP
- Broxbourne Woods GAP



The site management team at Chorleywood Common !

Talks

- Berkhamsted Town Council - Declaring a Butterfly Emergency
- Berkhamsted - How to attract more butterflies and moths to your garden
- Hemel - Friends of Halsey Field
- Lea Valley Park volunteers
- Standon Village tea & talk Group
- Hillingdon Amateur Gardeners
- Welwyn Natural History Society
- Holland Park Moth and butterfly walk

Other

- Herts LNRS
- Greater London LNRS
- Whitewebbs Park Enfield - Planning application objection
- Pitstone No 2 Quarry (The Blue Lagoon) - Planning application objection
- Report to TfL on the impact on butterflies of their Wildflower verge project and advice
- TfL - Seeding wildflower strip on A40 and associated Engagement
- Report to St Albans DC on the impact on butterflies on grasslands in their Wilder St Albans project
- Greenwood Park butterfly bank - end of season cut & collect
- East Hemel - Crown Estate community design workshop including site advice
- Potters Crouch Plantation - co-ordinating opposition to planning application
- Finchley Pollinators N3, N12 - Butterfly walk
- Radio interview with Mix 92.6 for Big Butterfly Count
- U3A St Albans - Butterfly Walk
- St Albans Green House - Butterfly Walk
- Solar UK - Recording advice
- CPRE - Hedges for heros collaboration
- St Albans Greener Together Rewilding Workshop
- Butterfly World planning enforcement - press comment and lobbying council
- Warren Farm LNR and Hatton Fields near Heathrow to successfully find Brown Hairstreak.

Surveys

- Woodhall Park detailed survey across whole estate.
- Easneye Estate detailed survey across whole estate
- Highdown detailed survey across estate
- Network Rail allowed one escorted survey north of Hertford for Grizzled Skipper

Millhoppers' Report – Chris Ridley

Looking after the saplings planted in autumn 2023 kept us busy over the summer as they unfortunately were soon surrounded by vigorous nettles and some bindweed, which necessitated a lot of rather painful weeding. This work was worth the effort, however, and all but one of the saplings have survived this onslaught and are looking healthy and quite a lot larger than when first planted.

The butterfly transect was walked again during last spring and summer by a young volunteer. Results showed the Speckled Wood butterfly faring well but generally butterfly numbers on the reserve reflected the trend throughout Britain and were well down on previous years, possibly due to very poor weather for butterflies in spring and early summer 2024.

Meantime, Chris Hilling carried out 13 moth surveys during 2024, (plus some daytime recording) and recorded 730 individual moths of 161 species. Of these, 22 were new species to Millhoppers reserve, and included Streamer, Powdered Quaker and Barred Straw. Altogether, just over 400 species of moth have now been recorded at Millhoppers.

Our volunteers worked extremely hard last summer to put another ton of chalk onto the chalk bank, resulting in the bank being more robust and extensive. Amazingly, this task was completed whilst leaving the very vigorous Bird's-foot Trefoil plants which are growing on top of the bank intact. More seed and Kidney Vetch plug plants have been planted since, so we are looking forward to a summer of flowers and butterflies this year.



Another small project was to cut and rake much of the grass and other plants growing on the marsh last autumn, and this and the very wet weather we have had over the winter have meant that water has been able to flood the area, and it has become a real marsh once again.

Over the winter quite a few trees on the reserve, including some Black Poplars, a Bullace (*Prunus domestica*), and also a dying Sycamore near the reserve entrance, were pollarded or pruned to make them safe. The cut branches have been used to extend the dead hedge in the wood at the bottom of the reserve, which we started to construct last year, while thicker branches have been stacked to make log piles. Both the hedge and log piles will make excellent homes for various invertebrates as they age, and possible nesting and feeding sites for birds such as Blackbird and Wren, while the pruned Sycamore is now valuable standing deadwood. The dead hedge also has the advantage of preventing people taking a short cut across the river to exit the site and damaging the riverbank in doing so.

Our current project is to replace the bridge which is becoming unsafe. Butterfly Conservation has secured a grant to pay for this and discussions are ongoing about the best size and design of bridge to buy. The wardens and volunteers will help to install the bridge this summer, when it arrives. There are also plans to make a laid hedge along the west of the site.

The wardens were very sad to learn of the recent death of Margaret Noakes, who together with her husband, was one of the main people to raise money, set up and manage Millhoppers reserve in 1998. We are hoping to erect a memorial plaque to commemorate Margaret and John on the rail of the new bridge once it has been installed.

Recording Effort - Andrew Wood

We have received 52,228 records this year from over 2700 different recorders who made 23,800 visits to 602 2km map squares recording almost 159,000 individual butterflies. This is somewhat down on 2023 reflecting the very poor weather for butterflies during much of 2024. The records are summarised in the "Hertfordshire and Middlesex Butterflies" booklet that you will have received. Some of the figures here may be slightly different because more records have arrived since the booklet was written and some duplication has been resolved. Records come from the following main sources:

Transects There were 109 transect routes that were covered in 2024. These are routes that are walked regularly each week from April to September by a dedicated band of recorders. Some of these routes have been walked for many years and give us valuable comparative material for a particular site. This is useful to compare numbers of butterflies on a consistent basis, as we do in the abundance figures in the booklet. New transects have continued to be created, particularly in London as part of the Big City Butterflies Project with only a few losses this year. We continue to provide support, information, and training on transect walking.

The Wider Countryside Butterfly Scheme, where a number of randomly allocated 1km squares are crossed by two routes walked twice a year, to provide data on trends in areas that may or may not be key areas. For instance, some are very urban, and this helps to balance the trends from data collected in the hot spots of our area.

The Big Butterfly Count - the increasingly popular "citizen science" scheme in late July and early August and continued to produce a record number of reports. These schemes are nationally coordinated by Butterfly Conservation and feed into schemes such as the National Biodiversity Network and the Butterflies for the New Millennium.

We receive many records from casual visits to sites, people's gardens and from recorders who target particular areas in order to get comprehensive coverage of a group of 2km squares. These records come in from the smartphone iRecord, iRecord Butterflies and iNaturalist apps, BTO BirdTrack and Garden Birdwatch, BC Garden Butterfly Survey, reports to our website, paper lists, spreadsheets, and emails. Up until mid-2024 Andrew Wood was verifying all these records. In mid-2024, we were able to recruit a verification assistant volunteer Daven Vasishtan, who has been able to share this workload with me and has been a great help in the timely processing of records.

To all of these recorders, we say a huge thank you. It is this kind of data that makes the UK one of the best recorded places in the world and enables us to further understand what is going on in the natural world and to try to do something to conserve and improve it.

If you are not already recording, please consider sending in records and helping this effort. The information in "Hertfordshire and Middlesex Butterflies" will help you to see what the current situation is and to see where we still need more recording effort.

Moth Report - by Andrew Wood & Liz Goodyear

We recommend The Hertfordshire and Middlesex Moth Group's website to everyone as an excellent source of moth information across our area, with the added bonus of enabling you to submit records direct to the [moth group website](https://www.hertsmidxmths.uk/). [https://www.hertsmidxmths.uk/]

The volume of moth records is such that it takes much longer to process and create an overview than it does for butterflies. You can see a monthly summary of interest finds in the county moth recorder Colin Plant's Moth Mumblings which can be seen at the above site or you can receive it direct to your mailbox; details are [here](https://www.hertsmidxmths.uk/newsletters.php). [https://www.hertsmidxmths.uk/newsletters.php]

Acting Treasurer's Report – Malcolm Hull

Our financial year runs to the end of March, so this report covers the year ended 31 March 2024.

Our finances remain healthy with an overall year-end balance of £11,673, up by £1,156 from the previous year.

Income from membership subscriptions, sales and donations all rose slightly, producing a total of £9,079.

Our expenditure totaled £7,923, the main items being the printing and distribution of the Annual Report and a contribution of £2,000 towards the costs of the Big City Butterflies project.

We had hoped to spend a significant part of the remaining surplus on seed-funding for our Landscape Scale Projects, but this did not happen and we have carried forward the balance. The accounts for 2024/5 are not yet completed, but there is no material change up to March 2025.

Financial Report for year ended 31 March 2024

Opening balance on 1 April 2023	£10,517
Income from Subscriptions	£6,774
Donations and other income	£2,305
Total Income:	<u>£9,079</u>

Expenditure	
Publications and postage	£3,465
Conservation	£942
Stationary & Computer Consumables	£516
Big City Butterflies	£2,000
Other (inc. room hire & travel)	£1,009
Total Expenditure:	<u>£7,923</u>

Balance Carried Forward	<u>£11,673</u>
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In future years, the Branch funding arrangements are changing. BC is a single legal entity and holding separate pots of cash in Branch reserves is inhibiting fundraising efforts. Some Branches have been holding substantial sums unspent for many years. So, in future all funds will be held in a single account and Branches will prepare budgets and make funding requests to head office. It's too soon to know how this will work in practice, but early signs are positive

Finally, a reminder that the cost of **travel and other expenses** incurred by volunteers on Branch activities are reclaimable by submitting an expense form to the Treasurer. This includes the cost of travel associated with recording activities which have been prioritized by the Branch.

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION

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