



**Butterfly
Conservation**

Saving butterflies, moths and our environment



HERTFORDSHIRE & MIDDLESEX BRANCH

www.hertsmiddx-butterflies.org.uk

President: SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH CH FRS



Programme of online winter presentations

We invite all Butterfly Conservation members and friends to join us for a series of winter online presentations culminating in our Members' Day (incorporating the AGM) on Saturday 27th March 2021.

If you have received this notification by email, we have your email address and will send out an email prior to each talk with the ZOOM log in details. If however, you received the notification by post, this means we don't but if you are able to join in please send your email address to Ian Small using membership@hertsmiddx-butterflies.org.uk

The committee has decided that the 2021 Members Day (incorporating the AGM) would be held online as an afternoon event only. We are delighted that both Dr Phil Sterling and Dr Zoe Randle from Butterfly Conservation have agreed to speak to us! Both were booked to talk in 2020..... We are very disappointed about not being able to meet members in person but hope that you will all enjoy the afternoon in the comfort of your own home. *The AGM notices and reports will be made available to read on the branch website nearer the date.*

The online presentations will be on a **Wednesday evening starting at 8 o'clock and will be for approx. 1 – 1 ½ hours**. Please connect to the meetings beforehand to allow for a prompt start – each will be open from 7.45 pm. Many of you will now be familiar with the Zoom meeting concept but the plan is that the first evening, will provide an opportunity to familiarise you with the format, find out more about our work as a branch and a means to meet other members.

New to Zoom?

Full instructions will be available on the branch website at:

<https://hertsmiddx-butterflies.org.uk/JoiningInstructions-WinterPresentations.pdf>



Wednesday 20th January 2021

Welcome to the Hertfordshire & Middlesex Branch of Butterfly Conservation – Malcolm Hull, Branch Chair

An opportunity to familiarise yourself with the Zoom concept and meet the Committee members. Find out the roles we all play in running the branch and ask as many questions as you like. You may have a question about butterflies or moths, gardening for butterflies or would like to know more about what we do? Would you like to volunteer? Could we do something better? Please submit your question ahead of the meeting to malcolmhull@hertsmiddx-butterflies.org.uk. We will take additional questions by Zoom on the night if time permits

Zoom meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86928859475>



Wednesday 3rd February 2021

An introduction to Moth Recording – Andrew Wood, Herts & Middlesex Moth Group, Website Manager

Would you like to start recording moths? Andrew will introduce you to some of the many species of moth that can be recorded in Hertfordshire & Middlesex whether during the day or night. He will tell you about the many types of recording methods, and the type of lights and recording traps that are available. And most importantly how to identify them and the help there is available to get you started.

Zoom meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84221103139>



Wednesday 17th February 2021

The role of the Eastern Regional Conservation Manager and the local projects that you can get involved with, in particular the Four-spotted Moth recording project – Sharon Hearle

Eastern Regional Conservation Manager Sharon will outline some of the conservation work she does in the East of England, for priority butterflies and moths, in particular the Four-spotted Moth project which desperately needs more volunteers to look for the moth in particular in the north of Hertfordshire/Essex /Cambridgeshire border!

Zoom meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81516376414>



Wednesday 3rd March 2021

How to identify the look-a-like butterfly species? – Roger Gibbons, European Butterflies Group Liaison

Need help with those tricky species? Roger is very experienced with identifying British butterfly species, so he will give tips with the aid of photos to show the key points to help you gain more confidence - whether in flight, or roosting or simply nectaring! Even the most experienced butterfly watchers still find some species particularly hard!

Zoom meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89299303742>



Wednesday 17th March 2021

One year of butterfly and moth records 2020 – Andrew Wood, Branch Records Collator

A review of the highlights from last year's butterfly and moth records and recording targets for 2021 in preparation for the 2021 season!

Zoom meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86902191864>



Saturday 27th March 2021

Annual General Meeting and Members' Day presentations and results of the annual photographic competition.

- 1.45 Zoom entry period
- 2.00 Welcome from Malcolm Hull followed by the Annual General Meeting
The AGM papers and reports will be made available on the Branch website nearer the date
- 2.30 15 minute break and an opportunity to chat amongst attendees whilst Zoom is unmuted!
- 2.45 ***“Making the best of the built environment for butterflies and moths” – Dr Phil Sterling***
Phil was the principal ecological adviser to Dorset County Council for 25 years, and was involved in habitat creation on the back of a number of large-scale developments. For 4 years he managed the teams who maintain the county's road verges, and began the transformation that is leading to more wildflowers on the verges delivered at lower cost to the public purse. He moved to Butterfly Conservation in 2018 to establish 'Building Sites for Butterflies', a national programme encouraging creation and management of grasslands for wildlife in the built environment. The programme is showcasing habitat creation such as achieved along the Weymouth Relief Road in Dorset, where regular monitoring is demonstrating colonisation of many species of butterflies and moths since the road opened to traffic
- 3.45 15 minute break and an opportunity to chat amongst attendees whilst Zoom is unmuted!
- 3.49 Voting for the photo completion closes.
- 4.00 ***“The Atlas: Mission Accomplished” – Zoë Randle***
Zoë co-ordinates the Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey and the National Moth Recording Scheme for Butterfly Conservation. Her most recent achievement was being the lead author on the Atlas of Britain and Ireland's Larger Moths, a landmark publication and the first of its kind. In a previous life she did a PhD on how management for Large Blue butterflies benefits other rare species. She also worked on the Farm Scale Trials of GM crops, and researched Oak Gall Wasps and their parasitoids
- 4.45 Results of the annual photographic competition (see below) and closing remarks.

Zoom meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82258537514>

Online Photo Competition

This year the competition will be held online and voting will open approximately 5 days before the Members' Day with the results announced at the end of the meeting.

<https://hertsmiddx-butterflies.org.uk/photo-competition-2021.php>

Entry is free and digital images need to be emailed to Andrew Wood

No more than 10 entries per person overall which can be made in the following categories:

- UK Butterflies
- UK Moths
- Butterflies and moths photographed outside the UK
- Moth/Butterfly behaviour
- Non adult stages

Photographs must be of wild insects, not captive bred stock.

Entries should not have been digitally enhanced, apart from cropping/re-sizing.

All pictures must have been taken in the period March 29 2020 to March 20 2021.

Closing date for entries is Saturday 20 March 2021.

Closing date for voting is Saturday 27th March 2021 at 4pm

The entrant must be a member of Butterfly Conservation and photographs must be their own work.

Entries must be clearly labelled with the entry category.

Copyright remains with the photographer, however by entering, entrants acknowledge that the Branch will be allowed to use any photograph (with accreditation) in branch publications and web pages.

Andrew Wood

Email: zoothorn@ntlworld.com.

Tel: 0776 5098824.