



Huntingdonshire Moth & Butterfly Group

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National Moth Night

At the time of writing, no decision has been made concerning National Moth Night, which is due to take place on August 11th, to co-incide with the flight period of the White Spotted Pinion. Although in Hunts we have not so far been directly affected by the foot and mouth outbreak, other areas of the country have not been so fortunate, and restrictions may make the event unfeasible. However, August is some time off and the situation may have improved by then. The final decision will be made nearer the date, and published in the July newsletter.

Large Blue trip off?

The planned trip to see the Large Blue in Dorset has had to be cancelled due to the foot and mouth outbreak. The turf at the sites where the butterfly occurs is kept short by sheep grazing. Even if the disease is under control by July, it is likely that the site will be 'rested' from visitors for this year. If the restrictions are lifted in time, we will review the situation. Members will be informed by e mail or phone if so. But with any luck, we will be able to see this butterfly in 2002.

Belgium Weekend

The trip to Belgium will go ahead on the weekend of June 1st to June 3rd. The original plan to take two cars has changed due to the popularity of this excursion, and a minibus will now be hired. This has meant that the estimated cost has risen to approximately £140 plus personal insurance and meals. Currently there is one place available, and anyone interested should contact Peter Rowlings on 01480 890784 as soon as possible. A meeting of participants will be arranged for about four weeks before the date to discuss the details.

Slow start to butterfly year

A dismally wet start to spring following a saturated winter has delayed the appearance of many butterflies, with March sightings few and far between. An improvement in the first part of April has resulted in a number of Peacocks, Brimstones, Small Tortoiseshells and Commas emerging from hibernation. The first Orange Tip was sighted on April 9th in Kimbolton. This, by contrast, is on the early side for the species.

New venue for winter meetings

Provisional dates for next season's winter meetings are as follows:

- Wednesday 3rd October 2001
- Wednesday 5th December 2001
- Wednesday 13th February 2002
- Wednesday 10th April 2002

Due to the well attended meetings this winter, we are considering moving venue to somewhere with more space, with Hinchinbrooke Country Park's new hall a strong contender. As always, speakers are needed, and any member who would like to give a talk should contact Barry on 01480 475689.

QUIZ RESULT

The ninth Humbug Quiz was won by Bill Meek, with a score of 31 from a possible 44 points. As is customary, Bill will be setting next year's quiz. Members who recall Bill's fiendishly inventive quiz two years ago will be relieved to hear he says it will be much easier this time round.

OTHER DATES OF INTEREST

The Huntingdonshire Flora & Fauna Society are holding an evening of bats, moths & astronomy on September 15th, starting at 6.30 pm. A leaf miner course is being held at Warseley by the Wildlife Trust on October 14th. For more information on both these events, contact Barry on 01480 475689.

● The next newsletter is due for publication in early July. Information should be sent to the address at the top of the page.