



MONMOUTHSHIRE MOTH & BUTTERFLY GROUP

NEWSLETTER No 159 February 2020.

A monthly newsletter covering

Gwent and Monmouthshire Vice County 35

Editor: Martin Anthoney

Monmouthshire Moth & Butterfly Group AGM

You are cordially invited to our AGM and Members' Evening:

Wednesday 18th March 2020

Royal British Legion Club,
Old Market Street, Usk, NP15 1AL

7.30pm - 9.30pm

Andrea Rowe is no longer available, our speaker will now be George Tordoff, UK Senior Moth Ecologist with Butterfly Conservation.

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of last meeting (see below)
3. Matters arising
4. Accounts
5. Election of officers
6. Speaker – George Tordoff - "*Butterfly Conservation's recent work in Gwent and surrounding counties*".
7. AOB

Minutes of Monmouthshire Moth & Butterfly Group AGM, 12th March 2019.

Present – Roger James (Chair), Martin Anthoney, Sheila Dupe, Kevin Dupé, Val Deisler, Mike Hoult, Richard Clayton, Andrew Cormack, Janet Cormack, Stephanie Tyler, Lance Hutchings, Sarah, Bob Roome, Norman Lowe and Richard Clarke. Apologies for absence from Fiona Illing and Ian Rabjohns.

Introductions – everybody introduced themselves.

Minutes of last Meeting, 12th March 2019, approved. Roger thanked both Martin and Sam for all their work in managing our large number of records. Martin gave out a CD of “VC35 Lepidoptera flight time and distribution maps”.

Accounts - Sheila presented the accounts for the year. The opening balance was £186.22. A donation of £50 was made. There was no income, except for 22p interest! The closing balance was £136.44. It was agreed to donate £50 to the Garden Moth Scheme. The accounts were approved.

Election of officers - all the incumbent officers were willing to carry on in their roles and were re-elected.

Speaker – Norman Lowe, Brecknock Moth Group, gave an excellent talk on “The Garden Moth Scheme”.

AOB - there was a discussion about the “Gwent Mothing” Blog, started and maintained by Richard Clarke, and now adopted by MMBG. David Slade had said that there was an opportunity for Monmouthshire MBG to be included on the SEWBREC website. After some discussion it was agreed to have both.

Moth's Day was on the 14th March.

Kevin said he could get T-shirts and caps produced with the Silurian logo if anybody wanted them?

Bob thanked Martin for producing such an excellent, regular newsletter.

Kevin Dupé.

January – February 2020

January was a generally mild and unsettled month with westerly and south-westerly winds, but the weather was quieter at the beginning of the month and between the 18th and 25th. Rainfall and sunshine were mostly near normal and temperatures slightly above average.

After a quiet start, February 2020 deteriorated into the wettest February on record, with storms Ciara, Dennis and Jorghe causing widespread flooding and wind damage. Though warm overall, sunshine in February was well below average and a damp, dreary month was poor for lepidoptera.

January and February produced only three butterfly records and 21 macro moth species, well below 2019 figures.

1 st Jan	Dark Chestnut to light at Risca Mottled Umber and Winter Moth at Llantarnam	(Martin Anthoney) (Bob Roome)
5 th Jan	Winter Moths at Sudbrook, Llandogo and Cleddon Chestnut at Cleddon (Nick Felstead) and Risca (Martin Anthoney)	(Nick Felstead)
6 th Jan	A specimen of the micro <i>Acleris abietana</i> (Perth Button) to light at Ninewells Wood, Llandogo. A new species for VC35 and a first for Wales. Red Sword-grass to light at Risca	(Nick Felstead) (Martin Anthoney)
8 th Jan	Mottled Umber and Winter Moth at Catbrook	(Richard Clayton)
18 th Jan	Early Moth and Winter Moth at Caerwent	(Nick Felstead)
19 th Jan	Early Moth at Catbrook	(Richard Clayton)
20 th Jan	Dark Chestnut and Winter Moth at Newport	(Roger James)
24 th Jan	Oak Beauty to light at Dingestow	(Sam Bosanquet)
25 th Jan	Common Quaker to light at Dingestow	(Sam Bosanquet)
29 th Jan	Pale Brindled Beauty to light at Catbrook	(Richard Clayton)
31 st Jan	Spring Usher to light at Catbrook A very early adult Double-striped Pug at Caldicot	(Richard Clayton) (Nick Felstead)
1 st Feb	A Small White butterfly hatched out indoors at Dingestow amongst some locally produced vegetables	(Sam Bosanquet)
2 nd Feb	Hebrew Character to light at Llandogo Dotted Border and Spring Usher to light at Ravensnest Wood A remarkable 87 Spring Usher, 3 Pale Brindled Beauty and 1 Chestnut to light at Buckle Wood.	(Gail Reynolds) (Nick Felstead) (Nick Felstead)

3rd Feb

A live adult “Banana Moth” [*Satin Stowaway Antichloris viridis*] and larval web found in a plastic bag of bananas at Sainsburys, Newport. Probably a first for Wales, but as a non-native adventive species it will not count towards the Gwent VC35 list. (Andrew Symons)
Thanks to the [UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology](#) for their help.



“Banana Moth”
Antichloris viridis

- 7th Feb Dotted Border to light at Wonastow (Heather Colls)
- 12th Feb Peacock butterfly flying at Llandogo (Gail Reynolds)
- 17th Feb Small Tortoiseshell butterfly flying at Llandogo (Gail Reynolds)
- 21st Feb Water Carpet to a lighted window at Penallt (Ian Rabjohns)
- 23rd Feb 11 March Moth, Yellow Horned, Early Tooth-striped, Oak Beauty, Dotted Border, Pale Brindled Beauty and Chestnut to light at Forester’s House, Wentwood. (Nick Felstead)
- 24th Feb 7 Small Quaker and 2 Spring Usher to light at Tintern (Hazel Mitchell)
- 25th Feb Tawny Pinion, Grey Shoulder-knot, Pale Brindled Beauty, Hebrew Character and Common Quaker to light at Melbourne Way, Newport (Roger James)

Dates for your Diary 2020

Sunday 8th March Work task at Blackrock Quarry, Clydach 10am
At the Brynmawr roundabout on the A465 Heads of the Valley road, take the new exit after the Abergavenny exit and before the Brynmawr one. Proceed over the new white bridge and then turn right, following signs for Blackrock (access only). Continue along the same road to the tarmac layby before the lime kilns (SO215125)

Wednesday 18th March. MMBG Annual Meeting at Usk – see article above.

Saturday 21st March UK Butterfly Recorders' Meeting: in Birmingham. More info at <https://butterfly-conservation.org/butterflies/uk-butterfly-recorders-meeting>

27th – 29th August National Moth Night, with the theme *the various "Red" Underwings*

Saturday 24th October S Wales Branch of Butterfly Conservation annual Members' Day and AGM, Due to the closure of Kenfig NNR's visitor centre, the meeting will be at a new venue.

MMBG – Contact Names and Addresses.

Secretary: Kevin Dupé
120 Roman Way
Caerleon
Newport
NP18 3FS

Phone 01633 547897

e-mail Kevin.Dupe@btinternet.com

Chairman: Roger James
44 Melbourne Way
Newport
NP20 3RF

Phone 01633 215627

e-mail smallranunculus@uwclub.net

or in case of problems juliajames@uwclub.net

Treasurer: Sheila Dupé
18 Haisbro Avenue
Newport
NP19 7HY
Phone 01633 256475

Website / blog <http://gwentmothing.blogspot.co.uk/>

Queries to Richard Clarke

e-mail chykembro2@aol.com

Newsletter Editor & Recorder for
Butterflies & Macro Moths
Martin Anthoney
23 Malvern Close
Risca
Newport
NP11 6QY

Phone 01633 612272

e-mail chemlep@btinternet.com

Recorder for Micro Moths
Sam Bosanquet
c/o Dingestow Court
Monmouth
Monmouthshire
NP25 4DY

e-mail sambbryo@aol.com

Unless you tell us otherwise, the records you submit may be collated and disseminated manually or electronically, including via the internet, for conservation, environmental decision-making, education, research and other public benefit uses in accordance with Butterfly Conservation's data access policy. Records are added to Butterfly Conservation's UK butterfly and moth recording schemes (BNM and NMRS) and to the South East Wales Biodiversity Record Centre (SEWBRc). Names and contact details of recorders will be used for administration and verification purposes only. Your name and contact details will not be passed to other parties without your consent, whilst your name will form part of the record that is collated and disseminated in accordance with Butterfly Conservation's privacy policy.