

Wildlife Panel Annual Meeting

15 Feb 2017

Present

MHC – Helen Stace, Pete Watson, Mark Roberts, Simon Roberts

Peter Holmes, Tony Simpson, Ian Duncan, Alison Uren, Peter Garner, Andrew Cartlidge, Helen Woodman, Nigel Hand, Duncan Westbury, Mel Mason.

1. Appointment of Chair

Helen Stace was re-appointed as Chair. Proposed by Peter Holmes, Seconded by Tony Simpson.

2. Apologies for absence:

Chris O'Donnell (Southern Area Planning committee meeting), Ann Bowker, Johnny Birks, Sheila Spence, Med Snookes, Helen Woodman (until 8.15 pm), Jonathan Bills (parish council meeting), Beck Baker, Rich Vale, Katey Stephen.

3. Matters arising from the Meeting of Wednesday 15th February 2016.

None

4. Verbal report from the outdoor meeting

The outdoor meeting to Swinyard Hill in October was discussed and generally deemed to be progressing well with work included willow removal and scrub clearance. The plans to re-introduce Pearl Bordered Fritillary were discussed. **Action Point Mel Mason - Obtain an update from Katey Stephen** Tony Simpson pointed out that the Drab Looper and the wood spurge is being shaded out at The Gullet track. **Action Point Simon Roberts – Volunteer Work Party**

The cancelled Petty Whin site visit was discussed. Peter Holmes mentioned that the other Worcestershire site for it still had some plants present. Tony Simpson thought that, even if the plant reappears from seed the related moth will have gone. Peter Garner said that the original specimens were deep into the gorse so may not have been cut in 2014 and may be present but difficult to see.

5. Reports from the panel (Full written reports have been included)

Moths

Tony Simpson

Not much to report on moths on Malverns last year. There were a few Drab Looper's seen on Chase End Hill and above Gullet Quarry although less than in 2015, as was the case with most insects in what turned out to be a bad year. The Malvern records are significant as the only other Worcestershire sites are Monk Wood and around Wyre Forest. Perhaps we should think about the management around Gullet site as flowering Wood Spurge is needed for the moth and sites for this plant tend to get shaded out by scrub.

Dormice

Ann Bowker

2016 was rather a disappointing year on the dormouse front, especially in view of the better numbers the year before. We only had two in May in Park Wood, though Malvern Wells was slightly better with some including a rather late family (quite a feature in the autumn in the area generally) on the October check. Johnny Birks has found one or two in West Malvern, but have not had any information about Hollybush Roughs and the Gullet from Luke Casey. We have just completed a two-year tube survey of Rushy Valley and, sadly, have found no signs of dormice there.

Johnny Birks

Hayslad, West Malvern (30 tubes and 15 boxes) - Dormice confirmed as present on 11/10/16 (3 nests and 1 dormouse, but no evidence of breeding)

Above West Malvern village (30 tubes and 15 boxes) - Dormice confirmed as present in 2016 season via check on 18/1/17 (3 nests). This must be the most northerly site on the Malvern Hills where dormice have been confirmed.

Fungi

Sheila Spence

A strange year again with long dry spells particularly in the early autumn when few grassland fungi were seen fruiting. There were however some highlights which are worth mentioning, firstly the unusual star-fish shaped fungus *Clathrus archeri* or Devil's Fingers which like the even smellier but more commonly seen Stinkhorn Fungus, emerges from an 'egg'. Mostly found in groups of eggs, almost like a nest, Eve Hill spotted some on Peachfield Common back in October although she says she had seen some nearby a bit earlier in the year.

The annual fungus walk, last year again on Hollybed Common, was well attended although it was hard work finding much in the way of interesting fruit bodies in good condition. There was a good display of Parasol Mushrooms in various areas, three species of the Pinkgills (*Entoloma* sp) and only six species of Waxcap (*Hygrocybe* sp) found during the walk. We would normally have expected far more of these colourful species but I think we were too early in what had been a very dry year this year (2017) we will be a week later and see how it turns out. No sign of the *Ramarioopsis* from the previous year's

fungus walk in the same place, but we did look closely. Publicity for the walk did however create a lot of interest encouraging the public to contact MHC with news of their fungus finds which Beck kindly passed on to me. A further species of note was found by one of the fungus walk party, a keen photographer, which turned out to be a very rare species, the Oak Polypore (*Piptoporus quercina*) but found well outside our area I am afraid.

A huge bonus of some excellent records have been made by Peter Creed who has been spending time on the Hills prior to the publishing of a new book which will encompass all taxa, including fungi. He recorded 14 different species of Waxcap and 4 species of spindles during late October and November which will all be added to our overall records from the Malvern Hills and Commons. I was delighted to be invited to join this exciting project and look forward to getting stuck in to some writing now that I have eventually collated all the records I can lay my hand on from both sides of the hills.

Polecats

Johnny Birks

During autumn 2016 a PhD field study (live-trapping and radio-tracking) was carried out on the west side of the Malvern Hills by Katie Sainsbury of Exeter. Most of this work took place off MHC land towards the west, but some included MHC land, e.g. the 'old road' beside Chances Pitch, where a polecat was caught and radio-collared. The focus of this study is to identify the main hazards that affect polecats and could impede their recovery in Britain.

Bats

Park Wood Surveys 14/9/19 - MHC / Vincent Wildlife Trust

"A bat survey in woodland on the slopes of the Malvern Hills was a great success after six bat species were identified in one evening... Over the course of the evening, five species of bat were caught including Soprano pipistrelle, Natterer's, Brown long-eared, Lesser horseshoe and the rare Barbastelle bat. We also heard a common pipistrelle using bat detectors." *MHC website*

Detector recordings

common pipistrelle

'narrow-band' myotis

Caught in harp trap (4 set up in non-intervention section)

2 soprano pips

1 Natterer's bat

1 barbastelle

2 brown long-eared bats

1 lesser horseshoe

Park Wood Survey - 4/8/16

Bat detector recordings

serotine and lesser horseshoe - new records?

soprano and common pipistrelles,

a 'narrow band' myotis - i.e. the call was NOT typical of Bechstein's or Natterer's and was more typical of whiskered/Brandt's

None trapped (2 traps set up in non-intervention section)

Johnny Birks

Natural England monitoring of bats in **Colwall disused railway Tunnel** (mainly Lesser Horseshoe Bats – LHB):

- The peak annual count has not yet been done this winter. This will be carried out in February.
- Last year's peak count in February 2016 was 687 LHB in the Colwall Tunnel.
- Activity in the tunnel is being monitored electronically for 18 months to give a clearer idea of species and usage in the tunnel.

The Lesser Horseshoe bat maternity colony on private property close to **British Camp** was monitored by J Birks and others during June as part of the National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP). The peak adult count of 720 was made on 22nd June 2016. This included approximately 13 greater horseshoe bats. A limited internal check in October 2016 revealed many lesser horseshoe still present and two greater horseshoes.

The bat boxes in **Tinkers Hill Wood** were not checked by The Vincent Wildlife Trust during 2016, but I understand they have plans to reinstate checks during 2017, so that should reveal further information on the important Barbastelle colony based in the wood (part of which is under MHC jurisdiction).

JB - The Hills hold an amazing 13 of the 17 UK species. Active encouragement of woodland cover around the foothill perimeter is surely helping.

Birds

Simon Roberts - Woodland birds on Midsummer Hill to Chase End Hill 2016

Below is a brief summary of the Pied Flycatchers and other key woodland birds on Midsummer Hill, Ragged Stone Hill and Chase End Hill.

Pied Flycatchers

The Pied Flycatchers had seven territories on Midsummer Hill, none on Ragged Stone (last nest in 2010) and two on Chase End (the first since 2001). Unfortunately females appeared in low numbers and only five nests were established in boxes, all on Midsummer Hill, which is low but within the range of four to eight nests since 2008. One nest was only half built suggesting that the female was predated. Each of the other four nests produced a full clutch of seven eggs, all of which hatched, giving a fair result of 5.8 fledglings on average. The nests were almost synchronised and the birds benefited from a favourable weather window during the critical days.

However frequent periods of sustained heavy rain generally caused difficult foraging conditions. There were two unusual dawn sightings of a male (probably two different individuals) fluffed up and making strange weak sounds, indicating poor condition and probable near-starvation.

Redstarts

Redstarts appeared to suffer from the prolonged downpours. There were 10 territories on Midsummer Hill (slightly low), and one territory each on Ragged Stone (typical) and Chase End (unusual). A late nest occurred in a box on Ragged Stone, suggesting a replacement brood following a failed attempt, but alas this also failed with a small number of starved nestlings. Males sang later than expected (e.g. 21 Jun) indicating that pairs were generally having late and/or replacement broods.

Coal Tits

Two Coal Tit nests were in boxes for the first time since at least 2006, and both had good productivity. Anecdotally, Coal Tits appeared in good numbers on the three southern hills.

Other bird species

From casual observations after frequent visits during the Pied Flycatcher monitoring, the other species appeared to have typical numbers.

Midsummer Hill:

Marsh Tit, at least seven territories (good)
Spotted Flycatcher, three territories (typical)
Tree Pipit, one territory (typical)
Mistle Thrush, two territories (typical)
Siskin, one territory in larch plantation (unusual)

Ragged Stone Hill:

Marsh Tit, one territory (typical)
Spotted Flycatcher, none (occasionally one territory)
Tree Pipit, one territory (typical)
Meadow Pipit, one territory (typical)
Mistle Thrush, one territory (typical)

Chase End Hill:

Marsh Tit, one territory (typical)
Spotted Flycatcher, none (occasionally one territory)
Meadow Pipit, one territory (typical)
Mistle Thrush, two territories (good)

Sandy Saunders ('Birds and Butterflies around the Malverns')

1. Snipe seem to have stopped using Castlemorton Common, none during the winter last year and there were none when I had a look about a week ago.
2. There were fewer reports of migrating woodpigeons this in 2016. Not sure about the significance if this.
3. There were a lot of marsh tit records, on the increase perhaps?
4. Only three reports of grasshopper warbler and no real evidence that they bred, hope this isn't bad news.
5. There were decent numbers of migrating ring ouzel.

6. Pied flycatchers don't seem to be doing well, however I haven't yet receive Simon Roberts' report which should reveal all.
7. On the other hand redstarts seem to be flourishing although no reports of young were received. Also doing well - stonechat, grey wagtail, tree pipit (relatively well that is), meadow pipit, bullfinch, common redpoll (formerly lesser redpoll), red kite and mandarin duck.
8. There were plenty of wheatear on migration but no suggestion of breeding.
9. Based on the number of reports, cuckoo numbers seem to be down by about 15%.
10. Turtle dove numbers seem to be slightly higher, but no evidence of breeding. The reports come from Coombe Green and the east side of the hills.

Skylarks and Meadow Pipits have increased on the common and a good year for Song Thrush and Linnets (ID). Breeding birds had a poor early season with high numbers hatching but high mortality due to the wet early season. Single brood birds had a poor year but it was a good late season (PH).

Herpetofauna

Nigel Hand

- First Spring emergent male adder 21st Feb at 251 metres elevation Swinyard Hill
- First Spring emergent breeding female adder 23/3 at 252m elevation Black Hill, Berrington
- First frogspawn 21st Feb Ledbury
- First viviparous lizard sighting 27th February Gullet

Adders

Wyche and Perserverance Hill

8 adders recorded 6.03.16 including a 2015 juvenile (breeding here 2016).

The western side has been heavily managed and tided. In the past adders were regularly seen both sides of the hillside, particularly off the ridge path. All sightings now on eastern side only.

Black Hill and Berrington Quarry

5 males and one female 7.03.16 (no breeding evidence 2016).

The western side has been managed more intensively in the last two years, more so than the eastern side and all sightings have been on the eastern slopes. Adders were seen on both sides of the hill in the past.

British Camp Herefordshire Beacon

4 males and 1 female on Herefordshire Beacon 23.03.16 (no breeding evidence this year).

Gullet and Swinyard Hill

8 male adders and 4 breeding adult females, 2 Neonates 2016 (breeding confirmed 2016)

Berrow Downs and below Foxhall

2 females and 1 male.

Midsummer Hill

Adders were seen here in 2014 in low numbers, but none seen in 2016 Hollybush and

Bronsil Deer Park

No adders seen on these locations for last two years. There were small vulnerable numbers here in the past. On Hollybush they were present up until recently. The slope above the car park is now cut regularly. This side of the hill always had the greatest numbers of pheasants

due to birds being released in this area. No viviparous lizards seen here either, a favoured and important prey source of newborn and juvenile adders. Bronsil has had a culmination of factors potentially leading to the decline of a small adder population - Pheasants, 4x4 track and regular outdoor festivals. There is still good habitat connectivity from the Gullet on to Midsummer Hill and, but adders are constantly disturbed/predated by ever present numbers of pheasants along with numbers of native predator species buzzards and corvids.

Chase End

1 male adder seen in last two years. This is worrying as this site has declined ever since it was heavily cut and high numbers of cattle put on. Unlikely now to be maintaining a viable population anymore.

An adder was supposedly seen on the Purlieu last year. Grass snakes are regularly seen here.

Grass snake

Seen on Wyche and Perseverance Hill, Gullet and Swinyard, British Camp Reservoir and upper slopes. Rarely see neonate grass snakes on the Hills, perhaps egg laying areas lower down off hillsides. In the past seen numbers of grass snake on the western side of Swinyard Hill. This species turns up frequently in areas off the hills gardens, river valleys, woodlands unlike adders and viviparous lizards which are more specialist in habitats.

Slow-worms and viviparous lizards

Seen on North Hill, Worcestershire Beacon, Wyche and Perseverance Hill, Gullet and Swinyard, Berrow Downs, British Camp Hereford Beacon. There appears to be greater overall distribution by these two lizard species over the hill range. Viviparous lizard numbers do however decline rapidly as they are particularly sensitive to change like adders. Declines become notable if there are increases in mowing, general tidying and grazing. In July and August newborn and juvenile viviparous lizards become noticeable in areas. Viviparous lizards not seen on Chase End Hollybush, Mid Summer Hill I believe the abundance of pheasants on the southern end of the hills has severe impact on the viviparous lizard distribution. It is notable some of the better UK adder locations have abundant lizard numbers, lizards are a favoured prey species of newborn and juvenile adders.

Newts

Great crested newts were breeding in the Berrow Downs ponds in 2013 but the colonisation of both these ponds and particularly the upper pond by New Zealand Pygmy weed (*Crassula helmsii*) is leading to increasingly poor breeding conditions and preventing greater recruitment of newts and other amphibians. There were palmate newt and smooth newt in the Berrow Downs ponds in the past also. Great crested newts and smooth newts present in the Old Hills ponds and breeding. Palmate newt seen within the British Camp reservoir in the past.

Common toads

Worrying drop in numbers of breeding toads crossing Jubilee Drive and Chase Road in recent years. There are concerns the common toad is under a national decline. In the past there were hundreds and now numbers particularly low crossing Jubilee Drive. The pond on Ballards Land is becoming silted and in poor condition. Toads favour deeper and larger ponds. Combination of poor breeding pond conditions and road mortality may be the main reasons for their decline here.

Duncan Westbury described the results of University research into the DNA of slow worms fed to captive pheasants not being present in the dung. Pheasants are the biggest issue for adders etc. and there are apparently 60 million each year (PH).

Butterflies

Mel Mason

Malvern Hills 2016 - Overview of the local butterfly year

The decline in butterfly numbers on our transect sites this year is no surprise but the extent of the decline in some species is staggering, particularly, Peacock and Gatekeeper. Common Blue, Small Tortoiseshell, Small Heath, Small / Essex Skipper and Large Skipper fared badly but they have had at least one worse year or similar year in the past six. Small Copper and Green-veined White have recovered to some extent in 2016 but nothing extraordinary compared with recent years. However, Marbled White had the best year since at least 2008. Counts for the less common species are not reliable and depend on timed counts and, to some extent, on casual records - although Purple Hairstreak appear to have increased significantly, while Brown Argus seem to have declined significantly. Silver-washed Fritillary may not have appeared to the same extent on transects but casual records are very encouraging around the southern hills. The winners & losers of the more common species are also highlighted in the 2016 BBC: Red Admiral & Green-veined White improved the most; whereas Small Copper, Common Blue, Holly Blue, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Comma and Gatekeeper declined the most. Comparisons with records across the West Midlands and the UK are referred to in the individual species reports.

Annual numbers of migrant species fluctuate more widely than do residents due to more influencing factors over a larger geographic area. Although long-term trends for migrants are encouraging, the short-term trends indicate significant declines in the UK. Local migrants had a mixed year. Red Admiral recovered numbers to some extent in 2016, and reasonable numbers were seen in a warm October, but this species depends on migration. However, there were fewer sightings of Painted Lady and no sightings of Clouded Yellow again. The partially migrant Small White recovered to some extent on transect counts, but this species is easily confused in flight with other Whites.

Malvern Hills Conservators (MHC) produced a habitat management plan for Grayling sites in 2016 in liaison with WMBC. Up to 25 volunteers helped to clear scrub on five different days around sites on the eastern slopes of North Hill and Worcestershire Beacon. A Habitat Survey for Grayling around North Hill and Worcestershire Beacon was completed during July 2015 (MM, LL) to update the Habitat Survey completed in 2007 by Sue Clarke (Butterfly Conservation). Further, a 'Report on the Population & Distribution of the Malvern Grayling in July & August 2016' (MM) was submitted to MHC in September 2016. Three butterfly walks were organised with MHC, WMBC and Malvern Wildlife Trust, and more are planned again for 2017.

More detail of trends in the population & occurrence of each species is available in the annual publication of the 'Birds & Butterflies of the Malverns 2016'. A 'Report of the Habitat of the Grayling 2015' and a 'Report on the Population & Distribution of the Malvern Grayling in July & August 2016' is available on request via malverngrayling@btinternet.com.

Mel Mason / January 2017

WMBC Representative / Malvern Butterfly Group Recorder

One & Six year trends in the Malvern Hills and in the West Midlands
(Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, West Midlands);
And Short-term (1976-2014) and Long-term (1976-2014) % changes in the UK.

Ranked from highest to lowest % change 2011-2016 in Malvern Hills

Species	2011 Av	2012 Av	2013 Av	2014 Av	2015 Av	2016 Av	Av. 2011 - 2015	% Ch.2015-2011 ONE YEAR	% Ch.2011-2011 SIX YEARS	2011 Av	2012 Av	2013 Av	2014 Av	2015 Av	2016 Av	Av. 2011 - 2015	% Ch.2015-2011 ONE YEAR	% Ch.2011-2011 SIX YEARS	% Ch.2005-2014 SHORT	% Ch.1976-2014 LONG
Purple Hairstreak	3	4	10	11	11	19	8	81	147	3	1	0	1	1	2	1	10	25	-10	-54
Marbled White	48	24	33	46	52	67	41	30	66	31	23	15	30	38	47	28	23	71	25	50
White Admiral	4	1	5	4	4	6	4	38	53	2	2	3	4	2	2	3	-2	-26	-45	-59
Green Hairstreak	4	1	5	3	5	5	4	0	39	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-38	-38	-34	-41
Painted Lady	2	3	2	2	2	3	2	18	23	1	1	1	1	2	3	1	7	110	-84	133
Brimstone	6	6	8	10	13	10	9	-19	21	20	20	32	33	36	26	28	-28	-8	-1	1
Holly Blue	5	7	6	4	7	6	6	-3	10	4	4	3	2	3	3	3	6	-9	-61	37
Speckled Wood	85	45	56	97	77	78	72	1	8	117	50	91	110	79	93	89	18	4	4	84
Comma	11	13	16	18	21	17	16	-19	7	19	12	17	16	17	11	16	-35	-33	-28	150
Red Admiral	7	11	2	10	6	8	7	28	6	16	10	4	11	9	11	10	29	12	-40	257
Large Skipper	10	5	10	20	24	14	14	-41	1	34	11	17	25	30	23	23	-25	-3	23	-17
Green-veined White	148	37	116	103	71	88	95	24	-8	151	32	126	126	70	106	101	51	5	72	-7
Orange-tip	27	25	20	28	27	23	25	-14	-8	37	35	24	42	31	29	34	-6	-15	59	10
Ringlet	257	80	159	203	169	148	174	-12	-15	343	195	287	277	318	267	284	-16	-6	72	381
Meadow Brown	303	454	572	568	588	416	497	-29	-16	343	486	367	321	510	347	406	-32	-14	-15	1
Small White	28	15	153	41	36	44	55	24	-19	70	29	167	58	46	66	74	44	-11	9	-25
Large White	33	16	106	26	46	35	45	-23	-22	46	16	158	41	45	66	61	44	5	-28	-30
Silver-washed Fritillary	3	4	2	2	5	2	3	-50	-27	29	21	48	28	36	18	32	-51	-46	6	141
Small Copper	20	14	14	11	6	9	13	44	-29	16	8	13	5	4	8	9	97	-15	-19	-37
Small Essex Skipper	34	31	47	103	91	40	61	-56	-34	53	36	82	79	86	30	67	-65	-56	-20	-82
Small Heath	29	66	71	54	43	33	53	-22	-37	21	22	16	21	11	13	18	13	-29	18	-54
Gatekeeper	175	111	133	174	165	93	152	-44	-39	178	160	126	116	168	87	148	-48	-41	-44	-41
Grayling	9	5	4	4	6	3	6	-50	-46	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	-100	-100	10	-58
Brown Argus	8	3	4	6	4	2	5	-42	-51	4	1	1	1	2	1	2	-63	-63	-11	-25
White-letter Hairstreak	9	5	1	4	2	2	4	0	-52	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	-25	-60	-77	-96
Small Tortoiseshell	14	9	18	53	23	10	23	-57	-58	26	9	32	38	35	16	28	-53	-41	146	-73
Dingy Skipper	7	21	8	4	3	3	9	0	-65	1	2	1	1	1	0	1	-74	-83	69	-19
Common Blue	65	22	17	43	104	16	50	-85	-69	53	10	15	30	85	24	38	-72	-39	1	-17
Peacock	16	22	58	51	42	9	38	-78	-75	50	53	138	96	70	17	81	-76	-80	21	17
Clouded Yellow	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	-100	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	-100	-57	734
Dark Green Fritillary	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	-100	-100	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	-54	6	18	186
GRAND TOTAL	1370	1060	1657	1704	1651	1210	1488	-27	-19	1673	1237	1788	1514	1736	1313	1590	-24	-17		
Species	2011 Av	2012 Av	2013 Av	2014 Av	2015 Av	2016 Av	Av. 2011 - 2015	% Ch.2015-2016 ONE YEAR	% Ch.2011-2016 SIX YEARS	2011 Av	2012 Av	2013 Av	2014 Av	2015 Av	2016 Av	Av. 2011 - 2015	% Ch.2015-2016 ONE YEAR	% Ch.2011-2016 SIX YEARS	% Ch.2005-2014 SHORT	% Ch.1976-2014 LONG

Note: Malvern & West Midland % change 2011-2016 is calculated from the av. count in each transect for each species between 2011-15 compared with the av. count for 2016. Transect records for the less common species are too low to be meaningful: Purple Hairstreak, White Admiral, Green Hairstreak, Painted Lady, Silver-washed Fritillary, Grayling, Brown Argus, White-letter Hairstreak, Dingy Skipper, Clouded Yellow, and Dark Green Fritillary.

Flora

The involvement of PIG for future recording was discussed. MR mentioned the successes of orchids on Link Common and the Green Winged Orchid on the Old Hills through hay strewing. PG and AC reported that Autumn Ladies Tresses were seen on Castlemorton Common but it had been a poor year. PG highlighted the Climbing Corydalis behind Wyche toilets.

6. MHC Updates

Jonathan Bills - Conservation Officer

- Over the last year key habitat management has occurred on all sites through staff, volunteers and contractors. The maintenance and restoration of open habitats continues to be a dominant task.
- This winter the field staff, 4 contractors and 5 different sets of volunteers have been hard at work with scrub and tree works – sites have included Rushy Valley, east north hill (grayling sites), Swinyard bog, Broad Down, east pinnacle hill and next week western Sugarloaf too.
- Much of our conservation management is funded by Natural England's HLS schemes including the conservation grazing on the Hills this scheme is part-funded by the EU. Following Brexit this funding could be at risk depending on what the government decides to do once we've left the EU. In the meantime we are drawing up an application to the replacement scheme Countryside Stewardship. Hopefully this will remain open with funds available. Our application if successful would see grazing continue on the hills and improvement works for our woodlands such as selective thinning and removing laurel. Fingers crossed.
- Nature of Malvern book – in partnership with Peter Garner, Ian Duncan, the AONB and Nature Bureau, we are producing a new 'coffee table' book celebrating the wildlife of the Malverns (Peter might want to say more on this!).
- Looking ahead to 17/18 the land management plan highlights the following special projects: restoration work to two ponds on Guarlford road, finding a solution to the crassula problem at Castlemorton ponds, thinning at Thirds Wood and (hopefully) trialling goat grazing on the Hills.
- Thanks for all their ongoing help with records, thoughts on management etc. all gladly received...

Beck Baker - Community and Conservation Officer

Events Diary

The 2017 events diary has is currently being printed for release on the 1st of March. Events include the ever popular bat hunt, fungi walk and orchid walk over Malvern Common. We're also running a grayling walk to celebrate the work of the grayling volunteers from West Midlands Butterfly Conservation and MHC and to help the public find out more about this rare species. .

We saw a number of new faces on our events last year and hope to broaden our outreach over the coming years. Reviews of the events have been very positive and BB would like to thank all those Panel members who continue to support and lead these events. It couldn't be done without your help.

Rebranding

Over the last year we have been working with a design company who has produced a new logo, brand and a new working name for the organisation. A review our brand and how we communicated with the public and partner organisations to better promote the charity and increase understanding of our work. We are also working on a new website with clearer information for visitors and local people. Further details of the new brand are being prepared for the launch in April this year and all volunteers and panel members will be sent an email with full details nearer the time.

7. Future outdoor meeting arrangements

Conchological Society led walk suggested

Action Point PH – discuss with Allie(?)

April Midsummer Hill / Goblin's Gold / W Malvern Beech

Action Point –Peter Garner

July Grayling Walk

Action Point - Mel Mason

8. Any other business

Ian Duncan requested invertebrate records for the upcoming Nature of the Malverns Book. Also molluscs, fungi, spiders and the reservoirs. A website appeal was discussed.

Action point MR – raise with BB

MR is leaving at the end of March as Jenny Palmer is returning from Maternity Leave.

BB is now a permanent member of staff.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 14 February 2018 at 7 pm.

N.B. Worcestershire and Herefordshire state schools half term; 19-23 February 2018

Meeting closed 8.40pm

WILDLIFE PANEL CONTACTS 2017

NB

Current MHC Board Members on the panel are –

Chris O'Donnell (Mrs)
Charles Penn
Chris Rouse (Mr)
Helen Stace (Chair)

Other interested parties / participants;

Ann Bowker	mike.bowker@clara.net
Helen Stace	helenstace1@gmail.com
Ian Duncan	ian.duncan28@btinternet.com
Johnny Birks	johnny.birks@swiftecology.co.uk
Katey Stephen	katey.stephen@naturalengland.org.uk
Med Snookes	vandmsnookes@tiscali.co.uk
Nigel Hand	nigel.hand@virgin.net
Peter Alma	peteralma@supanet.com
Peter Garner	petergarner@live.co.uk
Sheila Spence	sheila.spence_@btinternet.com
Simon Roberts	roberts_simon@ymail.com
Tony Simpson	tonysimpson.1945@hotmail.co.uk
Woodman Helen	helen@worcestershireswildlifetrust.org
Alison Uren	alison.uren@gmail.com
Duncan Westbury	d.westbury@worc.ac.uk
Charles Penn	charlespenn50@gmail.com
Rich Vale (Warden)	rich@malvern hills.org.uk
Mel Mason	meljmason@btinternet.com
Ian Duncan	ian.duncan28@btinternet.com
Andrew Cartlidge	cartlia@yahoo.co.uk
Chris O'Donnell	chris.o'donnell@malvern hillsdc.net
Peter Holmes	holmes.fam@lineone.net
Beck	beck@malvern hills.org.uk
Jonathan	jonathan@malvern hills.org.uk
Director	director@malvern hills.org.uk
Susan Satchell	susan.satchell@malvern hills.org.uk
Chris Rouse