

# LANCASHIRE MOTHS

Newsletter 20

August 2009



**Scarce Silver-lines** (Photo: P Greenhalgh)

## EDITORIAL

This edition brings up the 10th anniversary of "**LANCASHIRE MOTHS**". Each one has tried to build on the strengths of the previous ones with articles, notes and identification features providing topical, educational and informative feedback to the county's moth recorders. Input from you, the readers is essential in keeping the newsletter going and I would urge you all to consider putting together a note or article for forthcoming editions. In an attempt to reduce our carbon footprint future editions will be available from the **LANCASHIRE MOTHS** website (see page 2) as either PDF or Word document downloads. Those of you without internet access will still be able to request a paper copy.

During the first six months of 2009, it has become fairly obvious that the number of people interested in and recording moths in Lancashire has continued its upward trend. Nationally, Butterfly Conservation's Moths Count scheme has no doubt played a big part in this (including the new National Moth Recording Scheme), but even at a local level it has been amazing how much new interest there is. The county boasts at least twelve new moth recorders who started during 2009 and many more have attended courses or expressed an interest during public events - excellent news for the moths, as well as the people.

Whilst compiling the summary of species found between January and the end of June, I thought it would be interesting to know how many moth records had been received so far. Bearing in mind that some groups and individual recorders don't submit records until the end of the season, the 23,500 plus records on the Mapmate database so far for 2009 is impressive. Thanks are due to Kevin McCabe, Chris Darbyshire and Graham Jones for inputting a large proportion of these records.

# BELTED BEAUTIES

by ANNE SMITH

On Friday, 3 April 2009 Barry Brigden, Mike Bloomfield and I went to Potts Corner to search for Belted Beauties. When we parked the tide was full out, a cold breeze was blowing and the sky was overcast. As we searched from 12.30pm until 2.30pm the wind soon dropped and the sky cleared. The temperature reached 12 degrees. We set off searching the inland side of the track taking care not to overlap, found one or two males and flushed several Snipe. Once we got beyond all the posts we turned back towards the car park and searched the seaward side, including all the posts.

We found a total of 44 individuals, 33 males (one of which was dead in a spider's web) and 11 females. All were bright and fresh looking. We are confident that none of these records were duplicates. The highest concentration of moths was between the posts and the car park but this was also the area we were in when it was warmest and sunniest.

**Belted Beauty (male)** (Photo: S Palmer)

We saw four mating pairs. In two cases each pair had four extra males "in attendance" sitting within 12 to 18 inches of the mated pair. Could this be a pheromone working? Almost all the moths we saw were sitting in the open and easy to see compared with other searches I have made. Moth 44 was found on one of the short posts surrounding the parking area!

All the moths were motionless except one male whose forewing appeared to be deformed and he was crawling about amongst the stalks. As we watched it seemed to improve so maybe it hadn't inflated properly - the other wings looked fine.



As we searched we found quite a few empty, fairly fragile cocoons on the dead stems. They were approx 15mm long and 7mm wide with a ragged exit hole at the top. One contained a small 2mm spider with red legs and thorax and a shiny, round black abdomen but she may have just been hiding there.

We also saw 2 lizards, one of which was very striking, strongly striped on the back and bright orange/red below. Would they eat a wingless moth? Skylarks sang continuously as we searched.

Although the occasional dog walker used the track and there were bikers and horses on the sands we saw no other people on the marsh while we were there.

## NATIONAL MOTH NIGHTS

**18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009**

For the first time ever, this year's event will be a two night extravaganza, on Friday and Saturday nights (18th and 19th September) with Migration as the main theme. To add even more interest, a marking experiment will take place to investigate the dispersal of migrant moths in the UK. They will be trapped at designated locations around the country, harmlessly but obviously marked with coloured paint and then released prior to the Friday night. The organisers have asked that any such coloured moths are notified immediately via the NMN website [www.nationalmothnight.info](http://www.nationalmothnight.info) or by phone on 01326 290287.

If you intend running an event in Lancashire on either or both of these nights please let Steve Palmer know so it can be advertised on the Lancs Moth Group and NMN websites. Do please pass on details of your sightings to the Lancashire Moth Group as soon as possible after the event. All records can be sent in to Steve for onward transmission to the NMN organisers or direct to the NMN organisers if preferred.

## NEWSLETTER 21 ONWARDS

**Future editions of Lancashire Moths will be downloadable (free of charge) as either a PDF or Word document from the Lancashire Moths Website – [www.lancashiremoths.co.uk](http://www.lancashiremoths.co.uk).**

**Paper copies will only be available on request, from the Editor, at a charge of £3 per copy.**

# **“THE MYSTERIOUS AFFAIR AT BISPHAM”**

**by Hercule Brigden**

One day in the Autumn of 2008 I received a communication from a well-trusted colleague that a number of large attractive caterpillars had been discovered brazenly exposing themselves on a fuchsia bush in the front garden of a bungalow in Bispham. The discoverer, the wife of the bungalow's owner, and, indeed, the owner himself, had been unable to identify these creatures, but upon sending a likeness to my colleague, they were identified as caterpillars of the Bedstraw Hawk moth, a rare immigrant. Unfortunately, the exact location of the bungalow was unknown, but I had been made aware of the name of the bungalow's owner. I was intrigued because, I was informed, this was probably the first instance in Lancashire of a wild Bedstraw Hawk moth choosing fuchsia on which to lay its eggs. I decided to investigate.

My first task was to locate the bungalow, but I had only the owner's name to go on. I searched through the telephone directory and found a corresponding entry. I decided to make contact, but to my dismay no one answered my phone call. Later that day, I got in my car and drove round. Things did not look promising as the front garden was an expanse of concrete and no fuchsia bush was discernible. Nevertheless I approached the front door and rang the bell. No one answered. The house was deserted. Deflated in spirit, I returned home.

I don't know what made me look in the telephone book again but I did so, and to my delight sitting there at the very top of the list was the name in question again. I can only surmise that in my enthusiasm for an immediate result my eager eyes had skimmed over this initial entry. With trepidation I rang the number, and my perseverance paid off.

Yes, it was the right dwelling and to my delight I was invited round to view these large black and yellow-spotted caterpillars. After a four-minute walk from my own property I was ringing the front door bell, but had not noticed any fuchsia bordering the well-kept lawn. A pleasant, elderly gentleman answered the door and invited me inside. I was told his wife had first seen the large caterpillars about two weeks previously and had marvelled at them, as had all their family when shown them. "Would you like to see them?" my new friend asked.

Eagerly, I followed him into his front garden and there tucked away against the front wall was an unobtrusive fuchsia shrub. "My wife counted about twenty a few days ago!" he pronounced. My heart leaped with anticipation at seeing my first Bedstraw Hawk moth caterpillar. "They're easy to see," he continued. But after searching for fifteen minutes not a single one met our gaze. We must have examined every single leaf and stalk of that insignificant fuchsia shrub to no avail. They had all disappeared without trace.

The big question was to discover where they had gone. I knew that Hawk moth caterpillars have a tendency to bury into the soil where they pupate in a small excavated cell loosely lined with silk. This could well be the explanation here. Or, had they been picked off in their full-size glory by hungry birds? However, their warning colouration prompted me to discard this possibility. It goes without saying I was bitterly disappointed, but perhaps all was not lost. I vowed to return with a trowel, and with my new friend's eager permission, dig for pupae.

I allowed three weeks to go by before returning to the scene with my digging implements. My friend and I got to work, but how deep should we go? And would the caterpillars perhaps have wandered away from the base of the fuchsia? I remembered seeing an Eyed Hawk moth caterpillar crawling at speed across a vast open car park. We dug and we dug, carefully examining each trowel-full of disturbed soil. We found nothing!

Disappointment? Of course! But I decided to return in two or three weeks' time and dig further afield in the garden.

At this stage, I should mention that my friend had told me that when his wife had first spotted the caterpillars he had removed one, had put it in a lidded box with some fuchsia leaves, and had taken it inside in an attempt to rear it. All went well for a few days but then, on one fateful day,

he went to replenish the food supply only to find that the caterpillar was no longer in the box. He assured me the box lid had been properly affixed, but fully-grown Hawk moth caterpillars can't disappear into thin air. I began to suspect the caterpillars might have been related to Houdini.

Almost immediately after I returned home from my digging expedition the telephone rang. It was my friend who told me he had found his missing caterpillar! He had gone to get a rubber band from a box of rubber bands on his window sill two or three feet away from his caterpillar box and there nestled down amongst the bands was his missing caterpillar. Perhaps rubber bands are the next best thing to soil. Unfortunately, it was dead. Shrunken and shrivelled it had perished as it had desperately tried to pupate.

Three weeks after my first forage into pupa digging, I, accompanied by an interested relative – the more people digging the better chances of a good result, I thought – returned to the garden. We began digging, in areas previously unexplored, with careful precision. And again, we dug and we dug, but after half an hour of concerted action, and increasing frustration and aching hearts, we had found nothing.

This was, however, not the end of the affair. It came to my knowledge that a young boy, Sean, aged 9, when walking on the pavement past the fuchsia bush in September, had spotted the caterpillars and obtained permission to take one. I now had the problem of locating this young naturalist. The bungalow owner thought his mother worked in the local market, and, fortunately, I eventually tracked her down to the baker's stall. I learnt that her son had fed the caterpillar on fuchsia leaves and was pleased when it had disappeared into soil to pupate. Apparently he knew he had a Hawk moth caterpillar but was unaware of its species. However, Sean's mother decided to dig it up after just a few days only to discover it was still a caterpillar. She quickly re-buried it. After three or four more weeks had elapsed it was dug up again, and an actively wriggling pupa was revealed. It was again reburied. Both mother and son were now waiting for the moth to emerge, hopefully on Christmas Day as a present from Santa.

Christmas came and went and Santa was not obliging. But on the 14<sup>th</sup> April I received a telephone call from Sean's mother to inform that a Bedstraw Hawk moth was flying around the rearing box (a plastic fish tank) having emerged from a neat opening at the top of the pupal case. I immediately went round and brought the moth, now fortunately quiescent, back to my home, and arranged for photographs to be taken.

And so the mysterious affair at Bispham was concluded. Of twenty or so caterpillars (the official figure is ten, but I have it on good authority that there were at least twenty) only two had been accounted for. The whereabouts of the others I suspect will never come to light. Even Spring gardening by the bungalow's owner had not revealed any pupae. But whenever I walk past the fuchsia bush I always look to see if a Bedstraw Hawk moth is sitting on the wall.

Finally, dear reader, come next September look carefully at your fuchsia shrubs. You may be pleasantly surprised.



**Hercule (alias Barry) Brigden**

**Request for Bird Records by Pete Marsh**

Please send in any breeding season bird records encountered whilst moth trapping by entering on the BTO Atlas website. If you don't want to do this, please send to myself with the tetrad details & date and I'll enter them for you. This especially refers to roding Woodcock, Tawny, Barn & Little Owls etc. which are not birds easily located during daytime surveys. Thanks. (Tel: 01524 264944) or email [pmarsh123@btinternet.com](mailto:pmarsh123@btinternet.com)

## A SUMMARY OF MOTHS FOUND IN VC59 & VC60

This summary covers all records submitted and entered onto the Mapmate database between 1st January and 30th June 2009.

Despite what turned out to be quite a cool or even cold winter at times, bucking the usual trend of the last few years, twelve different types of moth were recorded during January. At one extreme was the introduced pest species, the **Indian Meal Moth**, which lives indoors feeding on stored food products such as bird food, found in Morecambe (**J. Girdley – JG**). At the other were moths, such as the **Herald**, found over-wintering in bat hibernacula in several locations throughout Lancashire. Some, such as **Mompha sturnipennella** (Flixton, **K. McCabe – KM**) and the **Twenty Plume Moth** (Preston, **S. Palmer – SMP**) should have been resting, but were found active indoors. Others were happily doing their thing outdoors. These included moths which had emerged from their pupa last autumn such as **Agonopterix heracliana** at Heysham on 2nd (**A. Draper – AD**) and **Dark Chestnut** at Mere Sands Wood on 27th (**R. Boydell – RB** and **I. Kippax – IK**). **Winter Moth** are usually over by the new year and 2009 was no

exception with only one reported from Buckshaw on 8th Jan (**P. Krischkiw – PK**), while a most un-seasonal **Angle Shades** was found in Bispham on 19th (**C. Raby – CR**) and **Light Brown Apple-moth** at Pennington on 12th (**D. Wilson – DW**) and Hale on 18th (**C. Cockbain – CC**). Genuine new-year arrivals were represented by **Pale Brindled Beauty** at Buckshaw on 13th (**PK**), Euxton on 16th (**E. Langrish – EL**) and Wray on 30th (**P. Marsh – PM**). The first records for **Dotted Border** came in January with the former at Swinton on 20th (**G. Riley – GR**) and Mere Sands Wood on 26th (**RB, IK**). This last site also produced the earliest ever county record for **March Moth** on 27th January.



**Dotted Border**  
(Photo: T Riden)

With the arrival of February came colder conditions but these did not affect the **Tissues** found in a couple of Bat caves, happily oblivious to the outside weather. Eventually moths started reappearing in some cases literally the day after frosty conditions had abated. **Tortricodes alternella**, a common winter tortricoid micro-moth was one of the first to be found, but the large count of 51 near Leyland on 16th was most unexpected (**A. Barker – AB, EL**). At the same time the **Small Brindled Beauty** made its regular, if very restricted appearance at three sites in the Wray area between the 14th and 28th (**JG, PM**). **March Moth** and **Pale Brindled Beauty** continued to be widely reported with 105 of the latter at Cold Park Wood on 14th (**JG, PM**). The **Oak Beauty** was a bit slower to get going but as well as the usual records from the Wray area, this attractive moth was recorded from Yealand Conyers on 20th (**B. Hancock – BH**) and Bretherton (**EL**) and Boothstown (**I. Walker – IW**) on 24th.

One moth that can often slip beneath the radar in late winter is **Spring Usher**. Some years this moth is not recorded at all, but this was not the case in 2009. Counts of over 30 were received from Euxton on 14th (**EL**) and Wray on 18th (**JG, PM**) while on the 23rd it

was new to the 10km square in Little Singleton (**S. Bedford – SB**). **Dotted Border** was also widely distributed during February while contrastingly **Early Moth** seemed to be down in numbers. Reasonable counts were reported from the Euxton and Wray areas, but otherwise it was only found in Silverdale on 12th (**R. Griffiths – RG**) and Dolphinholme on 16th (**N. Rogers – NR**). The earliest freshly emerged noctuids usually start arriving at light traps from mid to late February and this year was no exception. From the 14th onward **Small Quaker**, **Common Quaker**, **Clouded Drab** and **Early Grey** all made appearances in



**Early Moth**  
(Photo: P Pugh)



**Spring Usher**  
(Photo: P Pugh)

small numbers over much of the county before the month end, the latter occurring in Silverdale on 20th (**T. Riden – TR**), an early date for this species. Another early report was that of an **Engrailed** at Mere Sands Wood (RB, IK) on 24th, but this and the previous species have both occurred even earlier than this in the last few years – what a changing world we are living in! Over-wintering plume moths are infrequently encountered this early but **Emmelina monodactyla** was found in Hale on 20th (CC), Blackrod (**P. Pugh – PP**) on 27th and Little Singleton on 28th (SB) while **Amblyptilia acanthadactyla** occurred near Hoghton (**G. Dixon – GD**) on the 23rd. Other over-wintering species such as the **Chestnut** and **Satellite** were widely reported over the last week of February including 29 of the former and 12 of the latter near Wray on the last day of the month (JG, PM).



**Yellow Horned**  
(Photo: P Greenhalgh)

March is always a variable month and this year was no exception with its fair share of reasonable trapping nights. It was not however, until the end of the first week that there was a hint of spring with the first **Shoulder Stripe** of the year appearing on 6th in Euxton (EL). The following night **Yellow Horned** came to light in Blackrod (PP), the precursor of a decent haul of records for this species which included Parbold on 10th (**J. Kilgour – JK**), Flixton (KM) and Wigan (**G. & B. Wynn – G&BW**) on 14th and five at Mere Sands (RB, IK) on 16th as well as the more regular reports from the north of the county, such as the one at Yealand Redmayne (**S. Stokes – SS**) on

18th. **Oak Nycteoline** remained hard to find after their over-wintering period but on the 11th singles came to light in Preston (SMP) and Swinton (GR). **Mottled Grey** also appeared slightly down in numbers from previous years despite five being recorded at Gait Barrows on 12th (**R. Petley-Jones – RPJ**). In complete contrast, **Common Quaker** was on a roll with 55 in the Chorley (EL) and Pennington (DW) areas on the 13th. The other early spring Orthosia were also well represented



**Oak Nycteoline**  
(Photo: S Palmer)



**Tawny Pinion** (Photo: J Clarke)

with maximums of 36 **Clouded Drab** at Mere Sands Wood on 16th (RB, IK) and 201 **Small Quaker** at Wray on 17th (JG).

**Twin-spotted Quaker** peaked a bit later with a maximum of 28 at the latter site on 30th (JG, PM). Over-wintering moths such as the **Pale Pinion** were being widely reported at this time but its close relative, the **Tawny Pinion**, was only found at three sites in March – Swinton on 13th (GR), Worsley on 15th (IW) and Silverdale on 18th (TR) – a bit of a switch around from previous years. The latter site and recorder provided the first **Streamer** of the year on 15th.

Daytime moth work in March tends to be quite hit and miss and the usual searches for **Orange Underwing** had mixed success despite some suitable sunny days. Rixton produced the first on 16th (KM and **D. Winnard – DW**) followed by Longworth Clough on 20th (**Graham Jones – GJo**) and Trowbarrow on 29th (**M. Elsworth – ME**). Another daytime search produced the first **Belted Beauty** sightings of the year (seven on 24th March at Potts Corner – SMP) on what was going to prove to be a memorable season for this moth. **Oak Beauty** was also doing well as demonstrated by the large catch of seventeen found in a trap near Wray on 19th (PM). This site also produced the only record in Lancashire so far this year of **Acleris literana** on the 21st (JG). As the month drew to a close a very early **Muslin Moth** was found in Pennington on 30th – not the first time this has happened (DW) and **Red-green Carpet** was found at Royton (**R Hart - RH**), a new site for this moth.



**Muslin Moth** (Photo: T Davenport)

New recorders can often make significant contributions to species distribution maps and it was therefore good to receive records of such common species as **Common Quaker**, **Clouded Drab** and **Early Grey** from **B. Clegg (BC)** in Oswaldtwistle; **Pine Beauty**, **Powdered Quaker** and **Chestnut** from **S. Collins (SC)** in Castleton; **Streamer**, **Mottled Grey** and **Early Tooth-striped** (GD) near Hoghton and **Clouded Silver**, **Muslin Moth** and **Early Grey** from east of Formby by **M. Dean and R. Hill (MD & RH)** – all of these are in under-recorded 10km squares. That is not to say that records from well recorded areas are not appreciated. Many of the records we have on the database date back to the late 1800s and early 1900s, so modern updates are equally as valuable to enable changes in distributions to be tracked in such a rapidly changing environment. One such area is the coastal side of Formby. This was a real hot-spot for moth enthusiasts in the early to mid twentieth century but, despite this, **Water Carpet** was noted there for the first time ever on 1st April by **T. Davenport (TD)**. Similarly **S. Tomlinson (ST)** added **Grass Rivulet** and **Latticed Heath** to the well recorded Ainsdale area this spring.

April is a busy time in Lancashire for checking the populations of two of the resident Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species. Both have an early season flight period and require checks of the known colonies as well as searches for any new sites. The first record for the year of **Barred Tooth-striped** came on 12th April in Silverdale (TR) and this was followed by records of single figure counts from five other sites in this area, all previously known. No records were received from the moth's main stronghold at Gait Barrows. **Belted Beauty**, in complete contrast, was recorded in large numbers at a well attended organised search on 19th April at its Potts Corner colony. This produced a tremendous count of 217 females and 232 males – the highest numbers ever recorded at this site. The results are likely to be more indicative of the efforts of those attending the event than the moth having an exceptional season.



**Barred Tooth-striped**  
(Photo: T Riden)



**Striped Twin-spot Carpet**  
(Photo: B Hancock)

Migrants were few and far between in April but following the arrival of a **Diamond-back Moth** at the end of March in Pennington (DW), the moth was subsequently recorded from mid to late April at nine other sites. These moths were probably the origin of the subsequent multiple sightings in mid-summer, following local breeding by the spring arrivals. The only other migrant at this time was a **Humming-bird Hawk-moth** seen in Ormskirk on 12th by **Don Baldwin**. Hints of the winter just gone were still around when an **Autumn Green Carpet** was found on the same date at Brinscall (EL) and another on the 24th at Dolphinholme (NR). Late April is often the best time to

search lowland areas for the illusive **Striped Twin-spot Carpet** (more of an early June species in the uplands). Only two were found this year in April, on the 20th at Yealand Hall Allotments (BH) and on 22nd at Eaves Wood (EL), the latter recorder also finding **Scarce Prominent** in the Silverdale area on 21st. Mid April turned out to be a bit of a purple patch for the micros when **Adela cuprella** (third county record) was found in woodland near Morecambe by a visiting lepidopterist (**D. Taylor**) and on 22nd **Acleris umbrana** was added to the Lancashire list when it came to light at Gait Barrows (BH, RPJ). By the 23rd early records of **Small Magpie** at Flixton (KM), **Chinese Character** at Silverdale (TR), **Lychnis** at Bispham (**B Brigden – BB**) and **May Highflyer** in Preston (SMP) all hinted at the arrival of Spring. Also on the 23rd, a bumper catch of ten **Purple Thorn** in Worsley (IW) was of note, while **Lunar Marbled Brown** was having an excellent year with records from 14 sites, including Adlington (PK), Dalton (**C. Darbyshire – CAD**), Haweswater (**A. & P. Palmer – A&PP**), Parbold (JK) and an impressive eleven from Astley Moss (KM, GR). Both **Ruby Tiger** and **Red Sword-grass** were quite elusive this spring but the former came to light at a new trap site in Silverdale on 25th (**J & D Player**) and the latter at Adlington (PK), Dolphinholme (NR), Leighton Moss (BH) and Longridge (**D Lambert – DL**). A search for the larvae of **Sandhill Rustic** at Birkdale on the



**Acleris umbrana**  
Photo: R Petley-Jones

same date (**R. Burkmar – RBk**, GJo) produced the added bonus of caterpillars of **Crescent Striped, Nutmeg** and **Sand Dart**. **Least Black Arches** was also showing well including a record from Wray (**Garry Jones, A. Shaw – GJ, AS**). As the month drew to a close **Lime Hawk Moth** came to light in Longridge on 28th (DL), **Mother Shipton** was observed during the day at Flixton on 29th (KM) and **Cabbage Moth** and **Rustic Shoulder-knot** made similarly early appearances on 30th April in Preston (**A Bunting – ABg**).



**Emperor Moth** (Photo: J Girdley)

May was one of those typical months that promised so much but in the end it wasn't until the last few days that it actually delivered. A single **Emperor Moth** on the 2nd was seen on Astley Moss (KM) and a migrant **Dark Sword-grass** appeared on the 6th in Royton (RH). On the 8th **Dingy Shell** came to light in Flixton (KM) and a **Square Spot** was found on Silverdale Moss on 9th (JG). All very good, so far. A daytime visit to Longridge Fell in sunny but blustery conditions produced several exquisite **Micropterix aureatella** on 11th (SMP) but the associated clear conditions and cool

nights made light trapping across the county hard work. Despite this **Alder Kitten** (the first of four this month) was found in Longridge on 15th (DL) – the others being Dolphinholme (NR) on 28th, Chipping on 29th (**C. & L. McWilliam – C&LM**), and Hoghton on 31st (GD). **Chamomile Shark** was a new 10km record in Preston on 17th (SMP) and **Gold Swift** was seen on Astley Moss on 19th (KM, GR). **Tachystola acroxantha** was the first moth found by new moth recorder **J. Shackman (JS)** in Whitefield on 21st. This, together with a record from Wigan on 1st June (G & BW) represented new sites for this moth which is gradually infilling and expanding its range, mainly in south Lancs.



**Chamomile Shark** (Photo: S Palmer)

Eventually as the month drew to a close, moths started appearing in much better numbers. A daytime visit to Warton Crag on 28th (GJo, SMP) produced several **Grapholita internana** flying around gorse, only the second county record, the other being in 1987. On the same day **Purple Bar** made an early appearance in St Annes (**J. Wardle – JW**) and **Eyed Hawk Moth** was a nice find for **D. Bennett (DB)** in Carnforth. **Rush Veneer** at Silverdale (TR) on 28th and Hale (CC) on 29th hinted at the possibility of more migrants, but it proved to be a false start. Altcar Ranges remain a superb coastal dune and grassland habitat and an authorised visit on 29th produced at least eight Marsh Pugs (GJo). Other moths that subsequently went on to have an excellent Spring started to make their appearances at this time. The first of many **Buff Arches** came to light in Pennington on 30th (DW) while **Figure of Eighty** was found at several sites from the 27th onwards including Knotty Ash (**C. Daly – CD**), Penwortham (**P. Smith**) and Preston (**A. Powell – AP**). **White** and **Buff Ermine** made an excellent come-back after the poor showing of the last few years. Peak counts included 21 of the former at Flixton (KM) on 31st and the same site producing 38 of the latter on one night towards the end of June.



**Large Nutmeg**  
(Photo: G Riley)

The moth of the spring competition (if there was such a thing!) would have been hard fought in 2009, but an excellent contender for top spot would be the **Large Nutmeg** found by GR at Swinton on 30th May. This was only the second record for VC59, the other having been found over 100 years previously. Other contenders for the award would have been **Marbled White Spot**, one of which was found at Astley Moss on 29th (KM, GR) and the **Lunar Thorn** at Wray on 31st (PM). **Silver Hook** also put in an impressive performance during May and into June with record numbers at a couple of sites and a new site record from Knotty Ash on 31st (CD). The month ended with **Small Elephant Hawk Moth**, **Puss Moth** and **Clouded Brindle** at Formby (TD), the last also being found in Warton (ME) and a couple of Small Purple Barred in the dunes at St Annes (SMP).





**Dog's Tooth** (Photo: T Riden)

The first few days of June produced a fine array of moths, the pick of the bunch being **Ash Pug** in Yealand Redmayne (SS) which was also found later in the month at Freckleton on 12th (JW) and Silverdale on 29th (BH). **Devon Carpet** was confirmed as still present in its local stronghold, Lord's Lot Wood (JG) and **Phycitodes maritima** came to light in Hale (CC) accompanied by a record eighteen **Dog's Tooth**. In Swinton, GR found a new site for the nationally rare pyralid moth **Algedonia terrealis**. It is still a real dilemma to know what this Golden Rod feeding species is using as a foodplant in this area. It has also been present in nearby Flixton for several years. Once again there was a hint of migration in the air with **Dark Sword-grass** appearing in Morecambe on the

5th, the first of several scattered records of this moth in Lancashire during June. On the 9th **White Colon** was recorded in St Annes (JW) and, despite being such a well recorded site, **Ancylis obtusana** was found new to Gait Barrows and Lancashire (ST).

Whilst out for a daytime walk, DP located a **Red-necked Footman** flying high around the tops of a tree in Eaves Wood on 12th, one of only two seen so far this year in Lancs. The other was at Dolphinholme towards the end of the month (NR). Checks for **Anania funebris**, a recent addition to the BAP list, were carried out at several limestone sites, the peak number being nine on Warton Crag on 12th (**R Miller**). The same recorder also found four **Cistus Forester** at their usual location on the Crag – great news after the lack of any records during 2008. The same date produced records of **Gold Swift** from Bispham (**M. Sutcliffe**) and a new site for **Pleurota bicostella** near Grizedale Head (JG). **Argyresthia cupressella** is continuing to push northward in the county and was located at Leighton Moss on 13th (new to VC60 – SMP), while at Huyton, its original location in Lancashire, numbers reached a peak of ten on the previous day (ST). A moth that rarely seems to be found in numbers in our area, **Bird's Wing** came to light at Hale (CC) on 14th, the first of four at this location in June. In Preston another new micro was added to the VC60 list when two **Morophaga choragella** were found resting in a Robinson trap (AP).



**Gold Swift** (Photo: G Riley)



**Sandhill Rustic larva**  
(Photo: G Jones)

Searches for larvae are not usually that productive in mid June, but a visit to the grounds of a plant nursery in Silverdale on 16th (BH, SMP) produced around 50 **Mullein Moth** caterpillars on a group of Mullein plants. Other sightings of note on this date included **Heart and Club** and **Dwarf Cream Wave** in Formby (TD) and **Sloe Pug** in Swinton (GR). The latter species was also recorded in Flixton and Gait Barrows on 23rd (KM and BH

respectively). BH was obviously in advanced "Pug hunting" mode at this time as a few days later he had found **Valerian Pug** at White Moss. Another larval search on 20th, this time on the Birkdale Green Beach (RBk, GJo), produced **Sandhill Rustic**, **Portland Moth** and an adult **Shore Wainscot** – the latter also being found at Formby on 29th (TD).



**Shore Wainscot** (Photo: G Jones)

On the 21st April *Piniphila bifasciana* was located in Flixton (KM), the first record in Lancs for over ten years, and a **Shark** was attracted to light at Heysham on 23rd (**J Holding – JH**). Around this time several Belle moths were located in the Wray area (JG, GJ, PM, AS) which are all believed to be **July Belle**, but investigations are ongoing to make sure **Lead Belle** is not involved.



**July(?) Belle** (Photo: S Palmer)

This pair are extremely difficult to separate and the catch dates coincided with the over-lapping flight time of the two moths. Late June proved to be a very productive for uncommon moths with *Nemapogon clematella* being located in Torrisholme during a daytime hedgerow search (CAD), **Minor Shoulder-knot** coming to light in Wray (PM) and **Plain Wave** occurring at Gait Barrows (BH). This last species was also subsequently seen in Dalton (ME) on 25th, Pennington on 26th (DW) and eleven on Astley Moss (KM) on 27th. A daytime search at Heysham Moss produced **Clouded Buff** on 24th (GJo), the same, very local species also being found at Botton Mill on 30th (PM). To add to this impressive tally of moths, **Lesser Cream Wave** was

located on White Moss (BH) on 25th, the same date also producing **Currant Clearwing** in a Hale garden (CC) and **Clay Triple-lines** and **Triple-spotted Clay** in Dalton (ME).

**Double Dart** has become quite a local species in the county over the past decade and so it was pleasing to receive reports from Morecambe on 26th (JG) and three in Wray on 28th (GJ, AS). The later date produced a new moth in that well recorded garden in Flixton – a lovely *Schreckensteinia festaliella* which was long overdue at this site (KM). At about this time an environmental survey carried out in Tyldesly, Manchester produced high numbers of **Blackneck** and a record count of fifteen **Burnished Brass (C. Plant)**. Also on 28th **Grass Rivulet** was located at Dalton (CAD) and a superb **Leopard Moth** came to light in Pennington (DW) accompanied by a **Blackneck**.



**Clay Triple-lines** (Photo: M Elsworth)



**Blackneck** (Photo: D Wilson)

On the 29th **Brown Scallop** and **V Moth** were recorded in the Silverdale area (SMP and BH respectively) while an early **Old Lady** came to light at Pennington (DW). The last day of the month continued the theme of exciting finds all over the county. **Coronet** was found in Chipping (C&LM), **Nutmeg** in Little Singleton (SB), and **Scarce Silver-lines** was reported from Adlington (PK) and Knotty Ash (CD).



**Red Carpet** (Photo: S Palmer)

The 30th June saw *Lozotaeniodes formosanus* continuing its range expansion by reaching Bispham (BB) while *Ebulea crocealis* was a new garden record in Preston (SMP) and six **Peach Blossom** and a **Red Carpet** were found in a trap at Botton Mill (PM). Just to wet the appetite for the second half of the season, **Humming-bird Hawk-moth** delighted two gardeners in Pennington (**C Hampson**) and in Prescott (**B Harrison**) – let's hope this is a sign of things to come.

## BOOK REVIEWS

### **Colour Identification Guide to Moths of the British Isles by Bernard Skinner, illustrated by David Wilson, (Third Edition), Apollo Books, 2009.**

The first thing that strikes you when you open a copy of the new edition of Bernard Skinner's *Colour Identification Guide to Moths of the British Isles* is the improvement in the quality of the plates; these have all been re-scanned and re-digitised producing a clean, crisp image, and for me this is the best thing about the new book. In the second edition I often felt that some of the plates were just a touch out of focus - with plate 10 of the pugs the worst offender - but thankfully this, along with the rest of the plates, has now been greatly improved. This new edition also contains six new plates that show magnified images (twice life size) of the right wing only for confusion species, which I have already found very useful. A further two new plates illustrate species new to the UK since the publication of the second edition.

This third edition of Skinner is published by a new publisher, Apollo Books, and to mark the change the book does look different with a new typeface and cover. For the majority of species the text remains unaltered since the last edition and this does appear to be a missed opportunity. This is not the case for all species, for instance, the distributional information for Small Ranunculus has been completely rewritten and contains information on the first records from Merseyside in 2004 - 2006. But overall the text for the majority of species remains unchanged, although added Bradley and Fletcher numbers are a welcome addition, and the line drawings have all been redrawn, another welcome improvement.

I must admit that generally I have always preferred the plates in Skinner to the plates in Waring and Townsend as an identification tool, simply because, regardless of their beauty, Lewington's illustrations just can't compete with photographs of set specimens when it comes to showing the minutiae of detail that is often needed when identifying some species. Admittedly, the text of Waring and Townsend is more detailed than Skinner, and I do appreciate that many find identifying moths using illustrations of moths in their resting positions much easier than set specimens. But for all of you who are serious about moths I would say that owning a copy of Skinner is a must, so if you don't currently own a copy of Skinner 1 or Skinner 2 you may want to consider investing in a copy of this new edition. For all of you who do own a copy of an earlier edition I can say that overall I'm pleased with my investment in the 'upgrade'.

[Graham Jones]

### **Field Guide to Moths of Great Britain and Ireland by Paul Waring and Martin Townsend, illustrated by Richard Lewington, (Second Edition), British Wildlife Publishing, 2009.**

This year at least, an analogy to the tendency of "buses turning up at the same time" would be well placed when discussing field guides for the larger moths, and the recently published second edition of Waring and Townsend's *Field Guide to the Moths of Great Britain and Ireland* completes the trilogy of recent publications, alongside Chris Manley's photo guide and the new, third edition of Skinner.

Personally, I am very pleased that this new edition has turned up as no longer will I have to suffer the appalling organisation of the first edition, which used to drive me nuts. With plates scattered randomly throughout the book and only a rough guide of between five to fifteen pages on where you may find the text to any of the species illustrated on each plate, if you were lucky. Thankfully, with this new edition this has all changed. All the plates are now grouped together in the centre and underneath the illustration of each species is the page number for the relevant text. Bliss.

The plates contain additional illustrations of species newly recorded in the UK since the first edition and there are also new illustrations of details and forms of resident species. Overall the book now includes 1700 illustrations of 880 species. More photographs of larvae have also been added including two new plates of the caterpillars of the regularly occurring Hawk Moths.

Most importantly the text has been completely updated with new information on status, distribution, ecology and identification. I did my best to find fault with the new updated text in terms of a lack of information on recent changes to status and distribution within Lancashire but failed miserably. Overall, the amount of work that has gone into updating the text is impressive and deserves to be congratulated. For me the revision to the formatting and organisation, coupled with the extensive update of the text, has made this new edition almost invaluable. Apart from sticking to my original assertion that all serious moth recorders should own a copy of Skinner, I would be hard pressed to choose either of these new editions over the other.

[Graham Jones]

## **British Moths and Butterflies - A Photographic Guide by Chris Manley**

Well, here we have it at last. A book on British Moths that contains colour photographs of nearly all of the larger moths recorded in Britain and also an unexpectedly large selection on the micro-moths. The photos cover over 850 of the larger moths, 74 species of butterfly, just under 500 micros and just over 300 larvae, pupae or eggs. The herculean task of putting together photographs of so many species involved Chris Manley supplementing his own photographs with those of many other photographers, including such familiar names to us as Brian Hancock, Ian Kimber and Rob Petley-Jones. The text gives the initials of the photographer involved for each photo.

Although the photos make up the bulk of the book, there is a handy section at the rear listing many plants and trees and the larvae of larger moths and butterflies that feed on them. How extensive and accurate this is has not been tested but a check on the Belted Beauty, for example, showed it to be listed under several of its well-known foodplants. A limited number of books, websites and organisations/groups associated with Lepidoptera have been listed at the rear of the book. The index is arranged so that, for example, all of the Carpet species are listed together, looking under C for Carpet and then picking out the one you want to check. This is at variance with both Skinner and Waring's book and I initially found it difficult to adjust to, but it is a popular with many new recorders.

The author has stated his primary aim is to provide sufficient information (photos and text) to enable the identification of almost any of the larger UK Moths. How well does it stand up to this aim?

### **Micros:**

The micromoth section covers about 60 pages and introduces the reader to all of the main families with the majority of the photos sharp and clear, allowing the shape, resting posture and wing markings, indicative of each family, to be represented. The choice of species depicted is excellent, covering most micromoths found regularly at light traps. There are also plenty depicted that can be found during daylight hours, as well as introducing the reader to some leaf-mines. It is a pity that the latter was not developed a little more with the mines of differing families being displayed. It is also a shame that on a few occasions small, dark photos of some of the more commonly encountered species are placed at the bottom corner of a page – e.g. the micro *Celypha lacunana*. There is a tendency to insert photos of some scarce, rarely encountered micro species with very restricted distributions because of their spectacular looks. However these are relatively few in number and do help to demonstrate the beauty and diversity of micromoth species as a whole.

### **Butterflies:**

I am quite doubtful as to the value of including a section on Butterflies within this publication although I can understand the rationale behind it. Butterflies have been covered exhaustively in a large number of readily available books, several of these with good quality photographs. There is little new to be added on this group in a book of this type and although the photos are of good quality, the twenty pages could perhaps have been better utilised more productively by including more micromoths. I suspect the publishers may have had more of a say in this than the author.

### **Larvae etc:**

The inclusion of a fifty page section on larvae, pupae and eggs is an interesting decision but it is important that any book of this kind includes something on life history. My initial reaction was that this was a rather extravagant use of space but the photos are of a very high quality, sometimes bettering those in Jim Porter's caterpillar book. There are enough on show to allow the shapes and colours of many larvae of the families of the larger moths to be displayed. This could well lead more people to develop an interest in the larval stages and to the purchase of Porter, an essential next step in studying this part of the life cycle.

### **Larger Moths:**

The 170 or so pages covering the larger moths are the main reason that most people will purchase this book. What has been needed for a long time is a book that contains good quality photographs of live moths with their shape, colouration, and resting posture clearly depicted. This book goes a long way in filling that gap.

Waring and Townsend, with Lewington's illustrations, and Skinner before that, are excellent all-round identification guides. But to ensure that any book can prove to be a stand-alone identification guide, as this book is billed, it is essential that the drawings or photos are in a standard format with sharp definition and an effective page layout. There is no problem with the overall quality of the photos in this book – the majority are pin-sharp and illustrate the moths in question extremely well. My main concern centres on the layout of this section.

Most obviously, the photos used (presumably unavoidable with the timescale involved) show moths facing in all different directions. Direct comparison of species would have been enhanced by having at least the look-alike species in a standard posture. Then there is the occasional unpredictable way the numerical organisation of the photos occur on each page (generally left to right or downwards but also sometimes

right to left) which makes relating the text to the photos rather awkward at times. However the most disappointing feature is that each photo bears no relationship in overall size to the next. This leaves, for example, Dark Arches depicted as the smallest species on page 237 when it is probably the largest of those shown, the Phoenix ends up as a third smaller than the Small Phoenix picture and the Mallow being dwarfed by a huge Yellow Shell. If you are familiar with these moths this will not be a problem and the use of average wingspan in the text mitigates this to a certain extent. However for those looking at unfamiliar species for the first time or with an inexperienced eye, it is sure to make identification decisions significantly more difficult than need be.

Throughout this section, a good range of photographs are utilised to demonstrate the variability in the forewing markings of many species although a few more might not have gone amiss, such as the in the case of the Marbled Minor or Coronet for example. The choice of photos in a few parts of the book does seem at odds with a book purporting to be an identification guide. Some of the smallest and occasionally quite dark photos utilised are common species which can be quite difficult to identify. Examples include Dark Chestnut, where the wing shape is difficult to see (for comparison with Chestnut) and Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet against Red Twin-spot Carpet. A large proportion of the Pugs are jammed together in a couple of pages (why does this always seem to happen with the Pugs in moth books?) whereas easily identified Hawk-moths are given huge amounts of space with three or four species to a page. A small shot of Southern Wainscot is on the same page as two much larger photos of The Delicate (a very rare migrant in much of the central and northern parts of the UK). To show how good the book could have been as an identification guide, one only has to look at the Rivulet and Small Rivulet pictures – good clear shots of a similar size with both moths pointing in a similar direction. I'm afraid I could go on – in the picture of the Essex Skipper, the black antennal segments are out of focus and in shade. Several critical species such as the photos of Lesser Cream Wave and Plain Wave could have been improved on. Some of the photos used have parts of the wing in shade and, presumably due to the range of photographers used, a large range of background substrates make some moths difficult to see properly – the picture of the Sloe Pug demonstrates both of these problems.

The vast majority of these objections would pale into insignificance if the book had been marketed simply as a collection of moth photos and in that respect this book is without parallel and has many positives. For me, the close ups of the Clearwings are magnificent, the in-flight photos of Humming-bird Hawk and the two Bee Hawk-moths are brilliant and, for the first time ever, the depiction of a Galium Carpet actually looks like the moth in question. Whenever I wish to check out a species I am unfamiliar with, this will be the first book I will go to - for the more experienced moth recorder, this book will be invaluable. For the beginner, this book will still allow a large proportion of distinctive moths to be identified without any problem but it will equally create some problems with the more tricky species.

**Text:**

A particularly useful feature is the numbering system employed for each photo and the text is that used in Bradley's list, well known to moth recorders. As this book has been primarily constructed as a photographic guide, the text has been kept to a bare minimum but generally contains sufficient information. Hints on separation of species are given for many but not all problem moths while varying amounts of new information has been added. Taking NW England as an example, Red Underwing distribution is given in the book to be as far north as central England and Wales whereas since the 1980s it has spread much further north. Triple-spotted Pug is given as widespread but there is only one confirmed record in Lancashire. Dark Marbled Carpet is given as local in the south and common elsewhere while Coast Dart is said to occur on the coastal sand-hills of northern Britain. The former is extremely local in Lancs while the latter appears to be extinct in the northwest of England. An opportunity was missed in providing more up to date information for quite a few species.

My main concern about this book is that it has been billed as a stand-alone identification guide. It is certainly not that. In a way it tries to achieve too many things in the available space when what was really needed, and presumably originally planned, was a well organised photographic guide to the macros. However it is a superb and admirably extensive collection of moth photographs and more. It is an absolute delight to flick through and will be a superb addition to the books available on Britain's moths. I would not hesitate to recommend this book as it will assist all lepidopterists, but when identifying moths for the first time, it should always be used alongside one of the more traditional identification guides. Incredibly, it has all been put together in a couple of years – surely unique in the moth book world.

**[Stephen Palmer]**

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## **E-MAIL GROUP**

Daisy Johnston and Graham Dixon have started a Yahoo Group for the Lancashire Moth Group <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/lancashiremoths/> to replace the old system. Anyone interested in joining should contact Graham Dixon - [troubleatmill@btinternet.com](mailto:troubleatmill@btinternet.com)

# LETTER TO THE EDITOR



Dear Mr Palmer

It has been brought to our attention that members of The Lancashire Moth Group (encouraged by yourself and a certain Mr C. Darbyshire) are using colloquial terminology that the Latin-speaking members of the local Lepidoptera community are finding increasingly offensive.

The first complaint (of many) that we received was from a Mr *M. Maura* who informs us that your bi-annual publication 'Lancashire Moths' regularly refers to him as an 'Old Lady.' Mr *Maura* would like to point out that (never actually reaching his second birthday) he is certainly not 'Old' and (as your microscopic examination of his genitalia have often confirmed) he is certainly no 'Lady'. Mr *Maura* would therefore like you to withdraw these references without delay - he regards them as both sexist and ageist.

Our concerns were further aroused when Mr *H. Proboscidalis* emailed us to say that you constantly refer to him as 'The Snout'. He would like to point out, here and now, that he has never, in his life, informed or grassed on anyone! However he did intimate that; 'If the price was right (and of course paid with used, unmarked, readies) he would be willing to 'spill the beans' about what really goes on in the Palmer garden during the hours of darkness.

Mrs *X. C-Nigrum* would like to point out that, like herself, many ladies (of a certain age) often develop facial hair and the fact that she may be slightly 'bristly' or 'Setaceous' does not make her a bad person.

When Mr *C. Umbratica* wrote to us, he was very keen to point out that he is in no way whatsoever a 'Shark.' Furthermore he would like to state categorically that despite the current 'Credit Crunch' he has never charged extortionate interest rates or used any strong-arm tactics to recoup any 'payments due' (An addendum to his letter has requested us - to ask you - to remind Mr Darbyshire that he has until next Monday night to come-up with the necessaries otherwise he can expect another visit from the boys and this time they won't be quite so polite).

Mr *C. Mi* is more than annoyed by the 'Mother Shipton' tag - not only does it (rightly or wrongly) suggest that he may have problems with his sexuality, it also causes problems with his mail-order business due to the amount of returned parcels that get re-directed to West Yorkshire and are subsequently calcified in a limestone cave between Harrogate and Knaresborough.

We have had letters/faxes/texts/emails and telephone calls from dozens of members of the extended *Xanthorhoe* family who would like you to stop referring to them as 'Carpets'. This promotes a belief amongst the rest of the Lepidoptera Community that it is OK for them to be 'walked all over' and 'beaten regularly'.

Mr *C. Alchymista* asks you to consider the damage that labelling him an 'Alchymist' has done to his costume jewellery business. It was never his intention to lead Mrs *P. Festucae* into believing that the spots he supplied to her were real gold or that Mrs *A. Gamma's* Ys were real silver. He has never claimed to be able to turn base metals into precious metals as Mrs *D. Chrysitis's* testimonial will confirm. She states "He never purported to supply anything more 'precious' than burnished brass".

On a separate matter - many of our clients are worried about the fact that you are keeping details about their whereabouts and habits on a publicly accessible database. This not only exposes our clients to the risk of 'Identity theft' (Check *G. Dixon's* early records - some dodgy identities in there!) it also contravenes their rights governed by the Data Protection Act.

Finally, it has come to our attention that yourself and Mr Darbyshire are 'recording' our clients without their express permission. This puts you in breach of legal requirements covered by 'Copyright law' and enforceable by the powers invested in 'The Performing Rights Society' and 'The Mechanical Copyright Protection Society' Both organisations will shortly be invoicing you for 'Royalties due' in way of a recorded performance.

So Mr Palmer, we would like to respectfully suggest that you and the rest of your group start referring to and treating our clients (and their intellectual property) with a little more respect - otherwise we will come round and "Put your lights out!"

Yours sincerely

Rosy Rustic (Secretary) (a.k.a. Graham Dixon)  
Department of 'Political Correctness'  
Legal Services - Entomological Branch

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## MOTH EVENTS 2009

**Saturday, 1st August** (10am-3pm)

**Introduction to Moth Recording  
Cuerden Valley Park**

A free one day course in The Barn, Lancashire Wildlife Trust HQ - aimed at those new to moth recording, with an introduction to the major moth families. Sessions on the use of field guides and recording moths, including electronic databases (such as MapMate) and looking at various moth traps. Bring a packed lunch, refreshments available. To book contact Graham Jones at Lancashire Wildlife Trust [gjones@lancswt.org.uk](mailto:gjones@lancswt.org.uk) 01772 318371.

**Sunday, 2nd August** (9.30am)

**Martin Mere WWT**

Wildfowl and Wetland Trust Moth Morning - Martin Mere, Rufford. Free to WWT members.

**Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> August** (8.30pm start)

**Fylde Dunes (SSSI)**

An event to record moths on the Fylde Dunes SSSI - all welcome and do bring your own generators and traps. Meet at North beach car park SD311 298. For more information please contact Anne Heslop of the Fylde Dunes Project on 01253 658537 or [aheslop@lancswt.org.uk](mailto:aheslop@lancswt.org.uk)

**Saturday, 8th August** (9.30pm start)

**Sankey Valley  
Country Park, St Helens**

A late evening event which will aim to record as many species of moths and bats as possible along with a variety of other nocturnal wildlife. The moths will be attracted using very bright MV lights so please bring along sunglasses if you have them. Meet at Visitors Centre, Blackbrook. For further information contact the Rangers on 01744 677772.

**Friday, 14th and Saturday, 15th August**

**Portland Moth Searches,  
Sefton Coast**

Searches to take place at Freshfield Dune Heath LWT on Friday, 14th August and on Formby Dunes on Saturday, 15th August.

Two light trapping sessions will take place over the weekend of the 14th /15th August to search for Portland Moth and other coastal specialities, such as Grass Eggar, along the Sefton Coast. Places are limited so please contact Graham Jones direct if interested in attending either session: by e-mail [gra\\_ham\\_jonwa@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gra_ham_jonwa@yahoo.co.uk) or tel: 0151 644 8392.

**Friday 14th August** (8pm onwards)

**Fishwick Bottoms, Preston**

Talk on moths, moth trapping demonstration and Bat walk. Booking Essential by tel 01772 906471 (Terry Blackburn).

**Saturday, 22nd August** (8pm onwards)

**Yarrow Valley Visitor's  
Centre (SD570152)**

Talk on Moths, moth trapping demonstration and Bat Walk. Contact Eddie Langrish [edwinlangrish@btinternet.com](mailto:edwinlangrish@btinternet.com) or Tel 01257 232100.

## **Friday, 18th and Saturday, 19th September NATIONAL MOTH NIGHT**

This is an annual event but for the first time covers two nights. Anyone who wishes to participate simply records any moths seen during the two nights of Friday 18th and/or Saturday 19th September and sends the details in to the scheme organisers. If you do take part please send your records to Steve Palmer via email [s.palmer12@btopenworld.com](mailto:s.palmer12@btopenworld.com) or to the address at the end of this report including your name, the location (with 6 figure grid ref.), type of trap used, brief weather details and how long you trapped for. If you intend organising an event for NMN do advertise it through the Lancashire Moth Group website. Records are appreciated as soon as possible after the event.

**Friday, 18th September** (17.30hrs onwards)

**Bats & Moths on NM Night  
Pickerings Pasture, Hale Bank**

What better time to look at these nocturnal insects and some of their main predators, the Bats! It's amazing what happens after dark. Experts will be on hand to tell us about and show us moths attracted to light traps and the bats trying to catch them. Meet at Ranger's Cabin (SJ488837). For further details contact Rob Smith (Ranger) on 0151 425 4706

**Saturday 3rd October** (10.30am-3.45pm)

**Pug Workshop  
Liverpool World Museum**

This course is primarily aimed at recorders who have some experience of dissection and will cover identification of the pugs by examination of their internal structures. Due to space and equipment limitations, the numbers attending this course will need to be restricted to 18 so early booking is essential. The Museum's Pug Reference Collection will be available for examination.

It is absolutely essential that you have your own equipment for this event including tweezers, pipettes, chemicals, mountant and other dissecting equipment plus several pugs from the season. Microscopes will be available. A copy of Riley and Prior's Pug book (or other publication with Pug genitalia depicted) would be useful as numbers of these books available will be limited on the day. Bring a packed lunch. Alternatively, cafeteria facilities are available within the Museum.

Booking is essential due to the limited numbers: *Guy T Knight, Zoology Curator - Entomology National Museums Liverpool (Tel: 0151 478 4369) Fax: 0151 478 4350*  
[Guy.Knight@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk](mailto:Guy.Knight@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk)

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