



**Lancashire & Cheshire Entomological Society
Newsletter**

Incorporating



The Cheshire Moth Group Newsletter

Dec 2005
Number 1016

The L&CES is a Registered Charity, Registered Charity No. 508729

The newsletter is available to download in colour from the NWMoths group pages at www.yahoo.com

Welcome!

The Society is going from strength to strength with large attendance at indoor meetings. This is great to see but has given rise to time pressure at meetings such as the popular 'Review of the Season' meeting. As an experiment, Council has decided to split this meeting next year into leps (October) and other orders (November). Hopefully this will give every one more time to discuss their exciting discoveries from the 2006 season. The proposed timetable of meetings is outlined later in this issue.

With the dark, cold winter months drawing ever closer, many of us may be doing less fieldwork than we do during the summer. With more time on our hands, now is a good time to be thinking about the exhibition meeting in early March. How about putting something together for the meeting? Even if you don't bring an exhibit, bring yourself. These meetings are always great fun and provide an excellent chance to discuss seasons past and seasons to come with other members. Shane has done an excellent job with the organisation – full details are again provided in this issue.

As an additional activity for the winter months why not sort out your records and submit them to the relevant recorders? A quick trawl through your notebooks will doubtless reveal much that could profitably be sent in. I'm sure most of the recorders would be delighted to hear from you...contact details for all VC58 recorders can be found at <http://www.consult-eco.ndirect.co.uk/lrc/crecs.htm>

Well, yet another newsletter and again, we are rather dominated by 'mothey' things. Come on all you out there who are interested in non-lepidoptera....put pen to paper and let the rest of us know what's been going on! The next newsletter is due out in February so copy to me by the end of January please.

Adrian Wander

Notice of the LCES Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at Frodsham Community Centre, Fluin Lane, Frodsham on Tuesday 17th **January** 2006, commencing at **7 p.m.**, followed by an Ordinary Meeting of the Society at 7.30 p.m. approximately.

AGM Agenda

- Minutes of AGM of 2005.
- Matters Arising
- Adoption of Hon. Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2005 (see appendix to this issue)
- Annual reports of office holders.
- Election of officers and council members.
- Motions proposed by members. (Motions in writing to Hon. Sec. by 10th Jan 2006).
- Any other business.

LCES Council and Nominations, to Date, for 2006

President Alan Creaser

Treasurer Rob Whitehead

Newsletter Editor Adrian Wander

Programme Editor Bob Letsche

Sales and Promotions Ian Smith

Exhibition Meeting Organiser Shane Farrell

Vice Presidents Mike Hull, Steve McWilliam, Ian Rutherford, Geoff Wotherspoon

Meetings Secretary Dave Edwards

Journal Editor & Curator Steve Judd

Librarian Carl Clee

Lanternist Guy Knight

Secretary Bob Letsche

Ordinary Council members Paul Hill, David Poynton, (vacancies)

The indication of nominees does not preclude further nominations. There are vacant places for members who can offer time, skills or ideas.

Any member of the society may stand for election by sending their nomination by **10th January 2006** to the Hon. Sec.

Diary Dates

Dates for the remaining 2005/2006 Indoor Programme are:

- Tue 20 Dec** Members videos, digital photos and the Christmas social
- Tue 17 Jan** Presidential Address & short papers. Preceded by AGM at 7.00 p.m.
- Tue 21 Feb** *A Lancashire Beauty* by Steve Palmer.
- Sat 4 Mar** Exhibition at Frodsham Community Centre, starting at: - Exhibitors 10.00 a.m. Public 11.00 am to 4.00 p.m.
- Tue 21 Mar** *British Shield Bugs* by Steve Judd.
- Tue 18 Apr** *Caddis flies* by Ian Wallace.

Provisional dates for the first part of the 2006/2007 indoor programme are:

- Tue 17 Oct** Review of the 2006 Season Part I – Lepidoptera
- Tue 21 Nov** Review of the 2006 Season Part II – Other Orders
- Tue 19th Dec** Members Slide evening and Christmas Social
- Tue 16 Jan** Presidential Address, member's videos and digital photographs preceded by the AGM at 7:00pm

All meetings are held in the Frodsham Community Centre and open to the public. Guests are very welcome to attend. It looks like a very interesting and varied programme and we look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to these meetings.

In addition, the next Council meetings will be held on Tuesday 7th Feb 2006, venue to be confirmed.

In addition we have one confirmed field meeting so far for 2006:

Sat 23 Sept: National Moth Night. Chadkirk Country Park, Romiley. Meet 6pm at the small car park opposite the Farm, SJ940903. Ring Shane Farrell before 4pm on the day (or preferably earlier) if you wish to attend. 0161 355 6919, shane.farrell@ntlworld.com

L&CES Exhibition 2006 - Update

Hopefully everyone enjoyed the 2005 exhibition and I thought it would be a good idea to update people on progress made so far towards the organisation of the 2006 event.

The venue will once again be Frodsham Community Centre at Fluin Lane and I have booked the main hall, the small hall and use of the kitchen and serving hatches. The date is set for the 4th March 2006 and we have the rooms for the full day as in 2005.

This year there will be a general theme to the exhibition. This is something I may try and do each year and will welcome suggestions of any other themes for future years. The theme this year will be '*Insect Interaction*'.

'What is meant by this?'..... I can hear you all asking! The theme is intended to be rather vague, in that it means whatever people interpret it to mean. The main point I should make is that complying with the theme is not a prerequisite to having an exhibit. However, if at all possible it will be greatly appreciated if people can try and come up with at least part of their exhibit that is in line with the theme. Some examples to

consider are prey/predator relationships, mass migration, fungal and viral effects, galls, parasitism, co-reliance, use of hiding places/communal roosting and even the effects of insects in relation to man such as pollination by bees and even infestations of moths in your larder – bring them along! The list is endless.

To go with the theme I have arranged with Margaret Redfern from the British Plant Gall Society to give a one-hour talk on insect-related plant galls. This is a fascinating and for many of us, unknown area of entomology and superbly complements recorders searching for insectivorous leaf mines. Although not *directly* related to the theme, everyone enjoyed Malcolm Simpson's talk on antique collecting methods and equipment that I have also arranged for him to talk again this year and expand from where he left off in 2005.



Members deep in discussion at the 2005 exhibition meeting

Jon Clifton and Adrian Wander from Anglian Lepidopterists Supplies have kindly agreed to take their usual corner so don't forget to place an order before the exhibition to allow them to ensure they can bring along your items. This also applies to Paul and Sue from Pennine Books, who have confirmed they will attend again and I am sure Ian Kimber with his UKMoths website on display, will come along once more. Apart from that I will follow the same process as last year and try and get as many tables pre-booked as possible before the event. I hope this provides adequate confirmation of what has happened thus far and hope you agree it bodes well for the 2006 exhibition.

Shane Farrell, Exhibition Organiser

What is the 'Northern Brimstone'?

Last year's challenge produced very little reaction so I'm raising the subject again as this is a problem that is more likely to be solved by a co-operative effort.

Mike Hull subjected some of my exhibit to Genitalia examination but was unable to detect any clear distinction between the insects raised from either typical or green Rowan feeding larvae.

The moths are indistinguishable but the larvae are quite different and we haven't seen an intermediate form. We need a good stock of both green Rowan-feeding larvae and of the normal brown humped form probably from Hawthorn or Blackthorn.

Would anyone doing any larva beating please keep any Brimstone moth larvae of either form and let me know that they are available. Further would anyone running a light trap in the early part of the year who catches a female Brimstone Moth please keep it alive and try and obtain eggs.

This is a chance for the Society to make a contribution to our understanding of a phenomenon that is quite well-known but so far unexplained; di-morphism in the imago

is well known but I know of no case of di-morphism in larvae being properly explained. Is it a gene or is it something in Rowan leaves?

Ian Rutherford

Lunar Hornet – “in the bag”

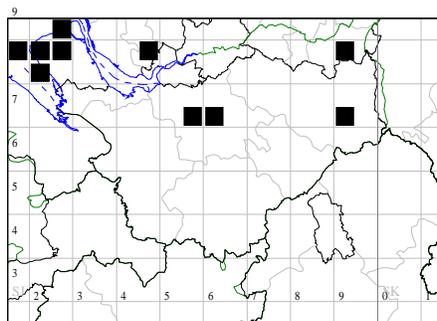
In January this year one of the Rangers from Marbury Country Park presented me with two pieces of willow, each about 12” long and a quadrant of a trunk of some 9” in diameter. The timber had some excavations in them that were about 5mm in diameter and I was asked if I had any idea what might have made them. To aid my identification I was also given a grub pickled in gin. My original plan was to present the grub to Don Stenhouse, in my belief that it was a wood-boring beetle larva. Unfortunately whenever I met Don over the ensuing months I either forgot to take the larva or forgot to pass it over to him. In the meantime the logs were left in a carrier bag in my garage.

Here they remained undisturbed until 12th July when I entered my garage and heard a buzzing sound coming from within the plastic carrier bag in which the logs had been kept. Half expecting the sound to be made by an irate trapped wasp I gingerly opened the bag and was amazed to find an adult Lunar Hornet Clearwing trying to make its escape. Pot in hand I soon had the specimen caught, but need not had worried, as one of the wings had not unfolded properly so the clearwing was unable to fly. Also in the bag were two exuvial cases, so at least one other Lunar Hornet had emerged and escaped from the carrier bag. I kept a close eye on the logs for the next few days, keeping them in a rearing cage to see if any more Lunar Hornets emerged, but none appeared.

Interestingly on making further enquiries the log came from the Wirral Country Park at Thurstaston, not far from other known sites on the Wirral, so armed with pheromones, I **will be out looking there next year.**



Lunar Hornet exuvia (above) and adult (right)



Distribution of Lunar Hornet Records in Cheshire

Paul Hill

Field Trip Report 9th July 2005
Moth-trapping session - National Moth Night Event, Chadkirk
Country Park, Romiley

This event was organised as part of the event known as National Moth Night and which has been an annual event since 1999. We advertised the event well with local posters, an entry on Internet based 'What's on' listings and even TV and local newspaper pieces! As a result we ended up with a total of approximately 30 people present and this included 12 children.

It was a warm, but clear evening and hopes of a good species tally were quite high, despite the lack of cloud cover as the night progressed. We initially hung some wine ropes that were not successful in attracting any moths to them and also set up two lights. The first, near the picnic site, was a lamp and sheet arrangement and was by far the most successful trap with 38 species recorded. The site is a typical semi-rural area with some good mature grassland, mature trees and shrubs/hedges (including hawthorn, elm, blackthorn, beech and elder). The most impressive moth was probably the single Buff-tip *Phalera bucephala* that flew around us a couple of times and then landed heavily on the sheet and didn't move again for the whole evening. I thought we had found a very rare moth, in fact a new species for Cheshire when an initial identification of *Eucosma fulvana* was suggested for two moths caught on the night. However, the absence of the food plant (Greater Knapweed) means that this moth cannot be confirmed and they are assumed to be pale forms of *Eucosma hohenwartiana*. The very similar species, *Eucosma cana* was also recorded at both trapping sites on the night. Other crowd pleasers were Buff Arches *Habrosyne pyritoides* and V-Pug *Chloroclystis v-ata*.



Buff-tip *Phalera bucephala* (left) and Buff Arches *Habrosyne pyritoides* (right)

As we anticipated spending the majority of time at the lamp and sheet near the picnic area, and wanted to run another light, we also ran a Skinner trap in the field off Vale Road. This was in a well-matured field with hawthorn hedges and mixed woodland about 50 yards or so back. This trap result was slightly disappointing and numbers were generally much lower than the other trap. We did however, see two male Ghost Moth *Hepialus humuli* performing their display flight and a lovely specimen of Gold Spot *Plusia festucae* was virtually the last moth found on the night, just before we packed up at around 1am. There were a total of 18 species at this trap and another attractive species recorded was Brimstone Moth *Opisthograptis luteolata*. The combined tallies from the two trap sites, a total of 44 species, follow:

0006 *Eriocrania subpurpurella* present
 0014 Ghost Moth *Hepialus humuli* 2
 0018 Map-winged Swift *Hepialus fusconebulosa* 2
 0441 *Paraswammerdamia lutarea* 1
 0658 *Carcina quercana* 2
 0726 *Metzneria metzneriella* 1
 0874 *Blastobasis decolorella* 2
 0972 Dark Fruit-tree Tortrix *Pandemis heparana* 1
 1076 *Celypha lacunana* 3
 1200 *Eucosma hohenwartiana* 2
 1201 *Eucosma cana* 17
 1293 Garden Grass-veneer *Chrysoteuchia culmella* 3
 1304 *Agriphila straminella* 60
 1334 *Scoparia ambigualis* 3
 1338 *Dipleurina lacustrata* 2
 1344 *Eudonia mercurella* 1
 1388 *Udea lutealis* 20
 1405 Mother of Pearl *Pleuroptya ruralis* 22
 1428 Bee Moth *Aphomia sociella* 5
 1653 Buff Arches *Habrosyne pyritoides* 2
 1702 Small Fan-footed Wave *Idaea biselata* 5
 1713 Riband Wave *Idaea aversata* 2
 1764 Common Marbled Carpet *Chloroclysta truncata* 1
 1858 V-Pug *Chloroclystis v-ata* 2
 1887 Clouded Border *Lomaspilis marginata* 2
 1906 Brimstone Moth *Opisthograptis luteolata* 10
 1941 Mottled Beauty *Alcis repandata* 2
 1955 Common White Wave *Cabera pusaria* 2
 1994 Buff-tip *Phalera bucephala* 1
 2089 Heart and Dart *Agrotis exclamationis* 3
 2098 Flame *Axylia putris* 3
 2102 Flame Shoulder *Ochropleura plecta* 2
 2155 Dot Moth *Melanchra persicariae* 5
 2198 Smoky Wainscot *Mythimna impura* 12
 2305 Small Angle Shades *Euplexia lucipara* 1
 2321 Dark Arches *Apamea monoglypha* 1
 2337x Marbled Minor agg. *Oligia strigilis* agg. 3
 2434 Burnished Brass *Diachrysia chrysitis* 1
 2439 Gold Spot *Plusia festucae* 1
 2442 Beautiful Golden Y *Autographa pulchrina* 2
 2443 Plain Golden Y *Autographa jota* 2
 2474 Straw Dot *Rivula sericealis* 7
 2477 Snout *Hypena proboscidalis* 2
 2492 Small Fan-foot *Herminia grisealis* 1

This was a very good night and with the highest tally of species ever recorded at the site on a single night. The fact that we didn't record a new species for Cheshire did not detract from an enjoyable time for those that attended.

Shane Farrell, Cheshire County Macromoth Recorder

The Society's Library **A Fantastic (but currently little used) Resource!**

The fact that the society has a very well stocked and readily available library must be known to our longer serving members but it may come as a complete surprise to some of the people that have joined our throng more recently.

As a member of only a couple of years or so, I have found the society's library of immense personal use and to repay this usefulness I thought I should 'plug' the library to those who do not currently benefit from it.

In all honesty I cannot afford all of the new publications that are apparently flooding the market at the moment and to be able to borrow both new books and also those long out of print (and often even more expensive) is a great help.

Speaking with the society librarian, Carl Clee, recently I was made aware that I am virtually the only person currently borrowing from the library with any regularity. It concerned me on a personal note that if more members don't use the library we may as a society feel it is not worth maintaining the books or adding new volumes when available.

This would be a shame (just for me at the moment!) but also thinking ahead it would be a lost resource for future members, young or old, to use and have available such works.

Hopefully by the time this newsletter reaches you, we will have produced a paper copy of the library inventory upon which several members have worked very hard to get to the printed word. In this you will see what a wealth of available literature we have and most of these are available for loan. The small minority that are not available for loan are available for reference only at Liverpool Museum by appointment.

To borrow a book you simply need to email or telephone your request to Carl Clee at carl.clee@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk or 0151 478 4369 and he will bring your volumes to the next normal meeting at Frodsham. If it is not possible for you to attend the meetings, then anyone else attending the meeting can collect and return them for you.

If you wish to see a volume added to the library then by all means make a suggestion and we will add it unless there is a good reason not to do so.

**SO, PLEASE USE THE LIBRARY! IT'S PAID FOR BY OUR SUBSCRIPTIONS,
IT'S THERE FOR OUR USE AND IT'S GREAT!**

To quote the song "You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone..."

Shane Farrell, VC58 Cheshire County Macromoth Recorder

(Steve Judd comments: The library catalogue will appear as a supplement to the next Journal, which will be published by January 2006. I can distribute an electronic version before then, if required.)

Contacts and Web Sites

- The Lancashire and Cheshire Entomology Society (LCES) can be found at: <http://www.consult-eco.ndirect.co.uk/entomol/lces>
- Lancs. & Chesh. Ent. Soc. can be contacted through The Gen. Sec., Bob Letsche, 46 Rossett Road, Crosby, Merseyside, L23 3AW, Tel: 0151 931 4376, email: bob.letsche@blueyonder.co.uk or, for subscriptions and membership, through The Hon. Treasurer, R.W.Whitehead, Haulfryn, Graigfechan, Ruthin, Denbs., LL15 2HA or at robaud@haulfryn99.fsnet.co.uk
- **rECOrd** – The Local Records Centre for Cheshire, Halton, Runcorn, Warrington and the Wirral can be found at: <http://www.record-lrc.co.uk>
- All records of macro and micro moths for Cheshire (VC58) should preferably be submitted to the Cheshire County Macromoth Recorder, Shane Farrell shane.farrell@ntlworld.com or via post to 15 Westover, Romiley, Stockport, Cheshire SK6 3ER
- Records of micros in Cheshire can also be sent to Steve Hind by e-mail to: steve@hind1.fsnet.co.uk
- Records from Shropshire should be sent to Peter Boardman, 7 High Street, Weston Rhyn, Shropshire, SY10 7RP or e-mail at peperouda@btinternet.com
- Submission of all biological records can be made to **rECOrd** at: manager@record-lrc.co.uk
- Butterfly Conservation can be found at: <http://www.butterfly-conservation.org>
- The Lancashire Moth Group now has a web page at <http://www.lancashire-moths.org>
- The Cheshire Moth Group also has web pages at <http://www.consult-eco.ndirect.co.uk/lrc/cm/cmg.htm>
- I can be contacted regarding field trips, items for the next newsletter etc. at: a.wander@dl.ac.uk or by post to 16 Bramhalls Park, Anderton, Northwich, Cheshire, CW9 6AH

**Receipts and Payments Account
For the Year Ended 31st August 2005**

	2005		2004	
	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS				
Subscriptions	1,121.00		954.00	
Investment Income	237.80		194.94	
Donations	70.00		18.00	
Sale of Publications	83.80		116.00	
Tax Recovered	<u>542.61</u>	2,055.21	<u>0.00</u>	1,282.94
PAYMENTS				
Library Additions	120.23		106.92	
Publications	0.00		1,261.65	
Post and Stationery	397.37		42.82	
Meetings Expenses	227.34		198.05	
Subscriptions Paid	41.55		51.25	
Donations	50.00		25.00	
Insurance	<u>24.00</u>	860.49	<u>24.00</u>	1,709.69
Surplus/Deficit for the Year		<u>1,194.72</u>		<u>-426.75</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st August 2005

FIXED ASSETS				
Library	10,000.00		10,000.00	
Cabinets and Specimens	<u>8,000.00</u>	18,000.00	<u>8,000.00</u>	
	<u>18,000.00</u>			
INVESTMENT				
HBOS shares, at cost		0.00		0.00
CURRENT ASSETS				
NSB Investment Account	6,034.54		5,860.84	
HBOS Bank Account	1,740.24		176.14	
RBS Bank Account	522.03		1,070.25	
Cash in Hand	<u>5.14</u>	8,301.95	<u>0</u>	7,107.23
		<u>26,301.95</u>		
	<u>25,107.23</u>			
RESERVES				
Revaluation Reserve		18,000.00		
	18,000.00			
General Reserve -				
Opening balance	7,107.23		7,533.98	
Surplus/ deficit for the year	<u>1,194.72</u>	8,301.95	<u>-426.75</u>	7,107.23
		<u>26,301.95</u>		
	<u>25,107.23</u>			

Prepared by: R W Whitehead, Hon. Treasurer
Approved by: P E Wildermuth, FCA
2nd November 2005