



HERTS MOTH GROUP

Newsletter number 16

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WELCOME

My apologies to all those who thought I had vanished off the face of the Earth! The year 2009 was a somewhat hectic one for me in terms of work; leisure activities like the moth group have needed to take a back seat for a while. I have kept in touch with most members via e-mail, but some of you do not have this facility and so are receiving a paper copy of this newsletter in the post, thanks to the continuing generosity of the Hertfordshire Biological Records Centre. If Santa brought you e-mail, please let me know your new address so you can be added to the electronic mailing list. Unfortunately, until this recession is over it will be difficult for me to relax and so I am a little nervous about committing myself to too many fixed moth-ing events in 2010 in case I need to be elsewhere in the country and earning money on those dates. However, I will try to fix a few dates for going out and catching moths during the year – hopefully these will be available by the time of the indoor meeting.

INDOOR MEETING 2010

I have now booked the usual venue – Havers Community Centre, Bishops Stortford – for this winter's Herts Moth Group annual indoor meeting. The date is

SATURDAY 27th MARCH 2010 – from 2pm to 6 pm

The date avoids conflicting with various other events and to ensure that Anglian Lepidopterists Supplies are able to be present. People wishing to order equipment, chemicals etc are recommended to do so from ALS in advance and collect at the meeting to save on postage (especially helpful if ordering chemicals or large/bulky/heavy items). Newcomers to moth-ing are invited to discuss their possible needs *without commitment* with Jon Clifton at ALS on 01263-862068. Butterfly Conservation (Herts & Middx. Branch) will also have displays and sales material. Our guest speaker will be

MARTIN HONEY

Curator of Lepidoptera at the Natural History Museum, London

on the topic of

THE MOTH COLLECTIONS AT THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM AND THE NEW FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR USE BY AMATEURS

As most people will be aware, the old entomology section at the museum in South Kensington is no more. The collections were moved to a site in Wandsworth for three years whilst the old building was demolished and a new one built. Throughout 2009 the collections have gradually been brought back to South Kensington and are now once again fully accessible. Part of this re-organisation has been to create a facility that can be more readily accessed by amateur lepidopterists (you and me!). Martin's talk will further inform us on this matter.

A draft programme for the day and directions on how to find the meeting place follow. There is a cake/hot pasty shop plus a new fish & chip shop, both 1 minute's walk from the meeting. Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous member, the cost of the hall this year is already covered; there will be the usual voluntary and anonymous whip-round on the day to fund the catering and guest speaker's travel costs – very unlikely to be more than £1.50 per person.

HOW TO GET THERE

By train: London Liverpool Street to Cambridge line. The Stanstead Express also usually stops at Bishops Stortford. To walk from station 20 minutes or get a taxi outside the door (expected fare approximately £5).

By bus: The coach/bus station in Bishops Stortford is outside the door of the station so again, 20 minutes or a taxi.

By car: Start from A, B or D and follow the instructions as follows:

- A From the west** From the A.10 eastwards on the A.120. When you reach the ring road (the first roundabout after leaving the A.10) turn right (to avoid the town centre) and follow the ring anti-clockwise over 6 roundabouts until you reach the end at roundabout 7. Turn left here towards Bishops Stortford then follow directions given below at **C**.
- B From the south** From Harlow northwards on the A.1184. After Sawbridgeworth (double roundabout) the next roundabout is the Bishops Stortford ring road. Go straight on then follow directions below at **C**.
- C** At the third set of lights (second set is a pedestrian crossing) turn left into Thorley Hill then follow directions below at **E**.
- D From the M11 motorway** Exit at junction 8 (Bishops Stortford and Birchanger Services). **From the south** go up the slip road to the lights and take the second left (first is the services) on the A120. **From the north** go up the slip to the lights then straight across the gap in the roundabout (middle lane) to the next lights where you bear right back onto the roundabout proper. Pass the slip road back on to the southbound M11 and then get over to the left and take the second exit (the first is the services) – the A120. **From both directions** at the next roundabout (after 100 yards or so) turn left towards the town centre on the A1250. Follow this road all the way to town over a small roundabout, over pedestrian lights, over a mini-roundabout, over more pedestrian lights at Hockerill College (on your right) until you reach the “real” lights at the crossroads with the A.1060. Turn left here. Go over the pedestrian lights and at the mini-roundabout turn right over the railway bridge. Follow the road to the end then bear left (petrol station on your right). At the first traffic lights turn right into Thorley Hill and follow directions below at **E**.
- E** Go up the hill, down the dip, up again and at the top bear left (shops on your left) then turn right more or less immediately into Cemetery Road. After 50 yards turn left into Benhooks Avenue then **immediately** right, then **immediately** right again into the Centre. Car parking is free “on street” in the adjacent residential area. Please leave the spaces on the centre forecourt for the guest speaker and those carrying equipment.

DRAFT PROGRAMME FOR INDOOR MEETING

all times are approximate – we do things *somewhat informally*

- 2.00 – 2.15: **Assemble.** Tea and coffee, setting up of exhibits, etc
- 2.15 – 2.30 **Welcoming remarks**
- 2.30 – 3.30 Martin Honey - Curator of Lepidoptera, Natural History Museum, London**
Informal presentation on the moth collections at the Natural History Museum and the new facilities available for use by amateurs, followed by informal questions and answers/discussion
- 3.30 – 4.00: Tea, coffee and biscuits served during informal questions to the speaker
- 4.00 – 5.45: Informal presentations by members and guests – please feel free to bring digital images for projection.
- 5.45 – 6.00 Volunteers willing and able to help put away the tables and chairs and return the meeting room to the state in which we found it are sought!

2009 MOTH RECORDS

These are now welcomed. Please try to get them to me so I have time to process them before the sun comes out again.

MOTH COLLECTION/LIBRARY OPEN-DAY AT COLIN'S HOUSE

My suggestion of a repeat of the open-day at my home a few years ago, whereby people dropped in throughout the course of a day to look at/use my moth collections and related library material has met with some positive response. I will therefore be opening my doors again on **Sunday 7th March 2010 – from midday to 8pm**. Moth group members are invited to turn up. Last time we had no problem with numbers and people drifted in and out throughout the day – I see no reason why that should not work just as well this year, but if you decide to come in number it might be kind to warn me the day before. No small children, please. Stay as long as you wish. Come to learn a bit more about scientific collecting or come to examine my microscope slides of moth genitalia and get a feel for this aspect of the study. Or come just to see the range of moths that is out there (my collection covers European macros and British micros). Totally informal – tea and coffee will be provided – please bring indoor footwear (e.g., slippers) – especially if wet or snowy.

Paper copies of this notice have been generously printed and distributed for the Group by the

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