

# THE COLEOPTERIST'S NEWSLETTER

Number 3

February 1981

Response to the note in the last Editorial about the change in attitude or make up of entomological societies brought little response. Perhaps, on thinking about the matter, this is not at all surprising because all the subscribers to the 'Newsletter' not least myself would seem quite satisfied with the changing state of entomology. We would all seem to be following the path of participating in new schemes, be they recording schemes or ventures such as this 'Newletter', that may indeed become de facto societies.

Other changes I feel sure we can only blame ourselves for. In particular the lack of or poor showing of Coleoptera at entomological exhibitions is generally met with adverse comments. We are the only people to blame for this absence, and perhaps we should all make some effort to exhibit a box of beetles each at this years meetings. I point out that I am as much to blame here as anyone having not even attended, let alone exhibited at an exhibition for about six years. To those that do produce an exhibit, I can only say 'keep up the good work', entomology is not as a layperson would see - all butterflies and moths, though unfortunately one does come to think of 'entomological society' as synonymous with 'Lepidoptera society'.

## REPORT OF THE KENT COLEOPTERIST'S MEETING.

Twenty-five visitors attended this meeting which was held as planned at Maidstone Museum on 24th January, 1981. The gathering was very informal and much of the time was spent discussing past experiences. Microscopes were available which made it possible to undertake examination of undetermined specimens which many visitors brought with them. The Balfour-Browne Club displayed several distribution maps of aquatic coleoptera; alongside were pinned

Kent tetrad maps for comparison. Tetrad maps and their associated records cards for all Kentish Coleoptera were set out on the bench together with visitors own exhibits. The collection of the late Ken Side was also on view.

Several suggestions of themes for future meetings were put forward, amongst these were requests for demonstrations of recommended methods for relaxing, setting and mounting specimens. The possibility of holding field meetings in Kent during 1981 was also discussed.

Finally on behalf of all who attended, I would like to thank Eric Philp for making the Museum workshop available and for arranging the first of, hopefully, many Coleopterist's meetings.

-- Peter Hodge.

### 1981 MEETING.

NB This meeting will not be on the same lines as the 1980 Monks Wood weekend. There will be no lectures, or ~~and~~ accomodation will not be centralised. However I hope these deficiencies will be more than compensated by the choice of venue.

BRAMPTON BRYAN PARK and PEDWARDINE WOOD, HEREFORDSHIRE. By kind permission of Mr. C.C.Harley. The biotopes available in this remote corner of NW Herefordshire are very varied but include open canopy ancient parkland, closedcanopy mature/overmature hardwood, andient oak coppice (apparently unmanaged for about 100yrs) plus a small area of upland heath (1100ft). Also there are wet areas - boggy ground around springs, ponds with associated run-off streams and a very neglected lake. The River Teme runs through Brampton Bryan and the Welsh Hills are close by.

How to get there. Although served by rail (Bucknell on the Swansea - Shrewsbury line) the service is very basic, and no trains run on Sunday. Cars are thus essential. From the north - A49 to Craven Arms or Ludlow; S.Wales and SW - via Hereford, Wigmore (A4110); London, Home Counties and the east - make for Worcester - Bromyard - Leominster then follow signs for the A4110.

MEET - at Brampton Bryan Park, Saturday June 20th at 10.00am (Those intending to participate, please inform J.Cooter - full details plus maps will be sent by return).

FIELD MEETING - BRAMPTON BRYAN PARK, HEREFORDSHIRE, June 20 - 21st, 1981

I must point out this meeting will not be on the same lines as the 1980 Monks Wood weekend. It will be a weekend of collecting without lectures and, alas without the identification workshop.

Being a rural area, accommodation is not 'centralised', there are no college halls nor large hotels. However, I list names and addresses of guest houses and the like, obtained from the local Tourist Information Office. There are other hotels in the area, and camp sites not too far away.

THE VENUE - Brampton Bryan Park is an area similar in age to Moccas Park, but richer in epiphytes, larger in area and entomologically 'unknown'. Previous visits have produced several interesting species including Platydracus fulvipes, Epuraea angustula, Ernoporus fagi to name but a few. The Park consists of open canopy parkland, closed canopy hardwoods - both with a large number of mature to overmature trees (oak, beech, birch, ash, wych elm); boggy areas around springs; various ponds and their associated streams. At the southern end of the Park is a small area of upland heath (1100ft) and beyond this Pedwardine Wood. The latter place contains some fine areas of ancient oak coppice, apparently untouched for over 100yrs. Between the coppice are plantations of conifers.

Mr. C.C.Harley of Brampton Bryan Hall has kindly given permission for our party to collect throughout the Park and Wood.

GETTING THERE - Bucknall Station (Shrewsbury - Swansea line) serves Brampton Bryan, but the service is rudimentary and no trains run on Sunday. By car from the home counties - make for Worcester, Bromyard, Leominster. From S.W. and S.Wales - via Hereford and Wigmore (A4110). From the North - A49 to Ludlow or Craven Arms.

MEET - Brampton Bryan Park, Saturday June 20th at 09.30 - 10.00hrs.

THOSE INTENDING TO TAKE PART ARE REQUESTED TO CONTACT THE LEADER (J.COOPER) IN ADVANCE - FURTHER DETAILS WILL THEN BE SENT, INCLUDING MAPS.

IF INTERESTED IN TAKING PART IN A 'COLEOPTERIST'S DINNER' ON SATURDAY EVENING PLEASE LET ME KNOW BEFORE APRIL 1st. BOOKING WILL BE BASED ON NUMBER OF REPLIES

RECEIVED. I WILL TRY TO KEEP THE COST AS LOW AS POSSIBLE (c.a. £5 to £6 excluding wine).

POSSIBLE ACCOMMODATION-

Mrs. H.I. Brick,  
Upper Pedwardine Farm,  
Brampton Bryan,  
Bucknell,  
Shropshire  
(Wigmore 288)

Upper Buckton,  
Leintwardine,  
Craven Arms,  
Shropshire,  
SY7 0JU  
(054 73 634)

Mrs. R. Watkins,  
Heartsease,  
Knighton  
Powys  
(Brampton Bryan 1 mile).

Greenwood House,  
West Street,  
Knighton,  
Powys.

Mr. Wooley,  
The Rectory,  
Hopton Castle,  
Shropshire.  
(Bucknell 356)

The Brick Cottage,  
Brampton Bryan,  
Bucknell,  
Shropshire.  
(054 74 429)

The Compasses,  
Ford Street,  
Wigmore,  
nr. Leominster,  
Herefordshire,  
HR6 9UN  
(058 886 203).

Norton Arms,  
Bridge Street,  
Knighton,  
Powys.

Mrs. Meredith,  
Stormer Cottage,  
Leintwardine,  
Herefordshire.

Mrs. Williams,  
Upper Farm,  
Hopton Castle,  
Shropshire.  
(Bucknell 352)

Although the field-meeting is arranged for the weekend, anyone wishing to undertake a longer stay will be most welcome. Brampton Bryan is very near the entomologically 'unknown' Welsh Hills, the River Teme flows through the village, and the Park itself is large enough to supply a very varied selection of habitats. Anyone wishing to begin earlier or stay on is requested to inform the leader.

FINANCES.

Bank - National Westminster, Broad Street, Hereford.

Account name - J.Cooter 'A'.

Balance at 25th February, 1981    £53.30p.

Fortunately I have been able to keep costs to a minimum, the largest expenditure being on postage and envelopes. Duplicating has been arranged and costs, in materials, nothing. However I am sure nobody will object to me making a token payment for this service - it is done through the Hereford and Radnor Nature Trust,

NEWSLETTER CONTENT.

This issue is indeed rather thin. Material is needed for future issues, some has been promised. I appreciate free time is at a premium these days, but hope that you are able to write down something for publication. (Contributions need not be typed, though perhaps it is best if they are for the sake of clarity).