

**KMBRC NEWSLETTER****Biological  
Records Centre**

Autumn 2010

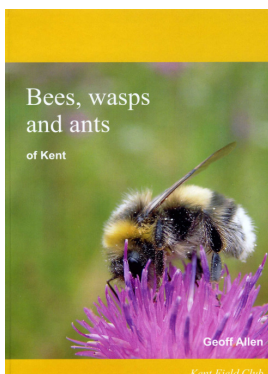
Issue 21

**Atlases of Kent**

Over the past two years the Kent Field Club has been busy publishing a series of atlases of Kent fauna and soon we will see the eagerly awaited **New Atlas of the Kent Flora**, written by renowned Kent naturalist Eric Philp. This 350 page edition updates and expands from his earlier work published in 1982. The KMBRC has been working hard over the last year on producing maps and setting the text and pictures for this new volume, and we are pleased to announce that it has now been sent to the printers.

The book is available for order at a special pre-publication price of £29.95 (including P&P) before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010, after which the price will rise to £39.50. To take advantage of this offer, please send a cheque made payable to **Kent Field Club**, to *Kent Field Club Offer, c/o KMBRC* at our usual address which can be found at the end of this newsletter. Don't forget to include your own name and address so that we can send you your copy as soon as it comes off of the presses!

For a chance to buy the book in person and hear a talk by the author, keep an eye on our webpage for more information on a book launch event at Waterstones, Canterbury on 9th December 2010!

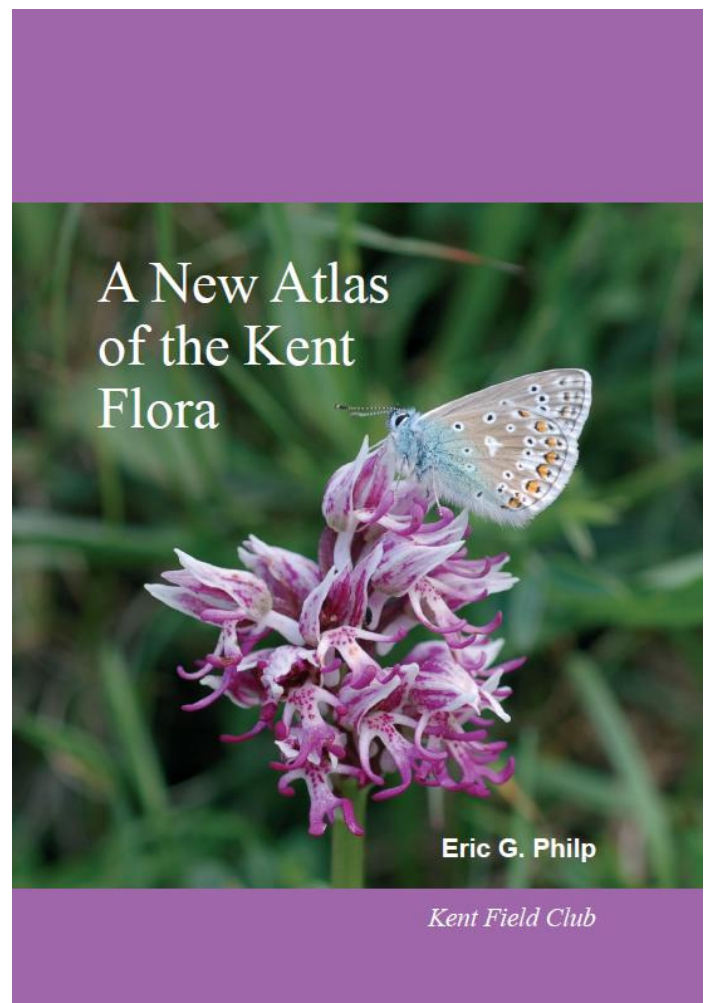
**Also available from KMBRC:**

Bees, Wasps & Ants of Kent by Geoff Allen, 2009. £20 inc. P&P

Dragonflies of Kent by John & Gill Brook, 2009. £15 inc. P&P

**Kent Field Club**

The natural history society of Kent



## BioBlitz at Kent Wildlife Trust's Romney Marsh Visitor Centre



Long-winged Conehead  
© Richard Moyse

The “bioblitz” is the latest craze to hit the world of biological recording. The idea, imported from America, is to identify as many species as possible at a site within 24 hours.

The first Kent bioblitz, organised by Kent Wildlife Trust, took place on the 12th August 2010 at Romney Marsh Visitor Centre. Local recorders and staff from KMBRC and KWT were joined by members of the public in the species hunt, and updates were provided throughout the day on a face-book event page.

The team effort resulted in 331 distinct species being identified, and has really increased our knowledge of the flora and fauna of this nature reserve. The tally included over 100 plant species, 66 moths and many other handsome insect specimens such as the pictured Long-winged Conehead. We hope you'll be able to join us at similar recording events in the future.

## Association of Local Environmental Records Centres (ALERC)

KMBRC is part of a network of local biodiversity and geodiversity record centres throughout the British Isles. All local record centres are not-for-profit partnerships, although many are hosted by Wildlife Trusts or local authorities, rather than being independent charities like KMBRC. Local record centres act as hubs, working with local recorders and national schemes, societies and government bodies.

ALERC has been set up to be a voice for local record centres at a national level and to help staff throughout the country share ideas and best practice in managing biological records. ALERC registered as a community interest company in July 2009 and is run by a board of directors drawn from local record centres around the country.

Teresa Frost of KMBRC joined the board of directors at this year's ALERC conference in Birmingham in April and says, “I am very pleased to have the opportunity to establish a strong voice for record centres nationally and keen to ensure that membership of ALERC



b e n e f i t s  
KMBRC and  
all record centres”.

## As the autumn mists arrive, KMBRC reflect on a year of biodiversity



2010 International Year of Biodiversity

As a partner in the International Year of Biodiversity, KMBRC has welcomed the focus on biodiversity this year to carry on our work of spreading the word of the value to people of Kent's species heritage and learning more about the world we live in. We attend public events such as Kent Goes Wild, which this year was in Tunbridge Wells, and festivals at Brogdale Farm to spread the word about the value of recording wildlife.



Back in the office, we are working with Kent County Council as part of their ARCH Inter-reg project to improve the accessibility of the biodiversity data we hold to Kent's planning authorities. This will help them to comply with regulations on consideration of biodiversity within the planning process using the wildlife records held at KMBRC.

## Help protect Kent's natural riches



Kent is a county rich in wildlife. Our database has recently topped 1.4 million records with the addition of a decade's worth of data from the county moth recorders. Plus, we hope to soon receive a large number of butterfly records from the Kent branch of Butterfly Conservation.

However, there are still a great number of records we do not have access to, largely because they are only on paper. We need your help in mobilising this data. Our store room is stuffed full with boxes of reports awaiting digitisation, and the Kent Wildlife Trust has filing cabinets also full of records which we are all desperately keen to add to the database so that they can be used. Could you spare us a few hours a week to help us with this at Brogdale, Faversham or Tyland Barn, Maidstone? If so, please get in touch using the contact details at the end of this newsletter.

## Notable Records

This summer has seen two major discoveries of species new to Kent. There was great excitement in June when John and Gill Brook discovered Dainty Damselfly *Coenagrion scitulum* on the Isle of Sheppey. This species was considered extinct in Britain after the species known colony in Essex disappeared in 1953 after the site was flooded, so as well as being a fabulous Kent find it is an extremely important national find.



The list of mammals occurring in Kent has also been increased with the discovery of Alcatheo Bat *Myotis alcatheo*. This bat was only discovered in Greece in 2000 as it looks similar to other species including Brandt's Bat *Myotis brandtii* and Whiskered Bat *Myotis mystacinus*, both of which occur in Kent. At first assumed to be a southern European species, the Alcatheo's bat presence as a resident in Britain was confirmed by scientists from Leeds and Sheffield universities using DNA analysis in Yorkshire and Sussex.

Shortly after the news of the new British species was announced in April, Kent Bat Group members kept a sharp lookout for the species and were rewarded when a bat trapped during the Bechstein's survey by Shirley Thompson and John Puckett was the first in the UK to be confirmed by Prof. John Altringham using photographic evidence alone.

## The night Brogdale went Batty & Mothy



Poplar Hawkmoth © Tony Witts

moth, Poplar Hawkmoth (pictured), Ruby Tiger, Peppered Moth and Dusky Sallow aka Toffee Moth!

Rowan, joined by KMBRC staff members Judith Church and Hannah Cook, had tremendous fun entertaining the children with a best dressed bat or moth competition.

As always Shirley and David were hugely entertaining and informative and we are enormously grateful for them giving us their time.

Bookings for the event flooded in and we could have run the event twice over. So it is very likely that this free family event will be run again next year.

### Contact Us

If you have any news or success stories about species seen in your garden or elsewhere, we'd love to hear from you! If you would like more information about the Records Centre or other wildlife groups in Kent please contact us:

**KMBRC**  
**Brogdale Farm**  
**Brogdale Road**  
**Faversham**  
**Kent ME13 8XZ**

Email: [info@kmbrc.org.uk](mailto:info@kmbrc.org.uk)

Telephone: 01795 532385

Fax: 01795 532386

Additional information about KMBRC and recording can be found on our website: [www.kmbrc.org.uk](http://www.kmbrc.org.uk)

If you would like to visit us then please contact us or see our website for directions to the office.



us on facebook by visiting:  
[www.facebook.com/KMBRC](http://www.facebook.com/KMBRC)

**If you would like to be notified in future by email when this newsletter is available on our website, then please let us know.**

We are very grateful to the following partners for providing funding and resources:

**Maidstone Borough Council**

**Ashford Future**



### Reasons to get in touch...

- If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or require more recording forms.
- If you would like to send in photographs for identification or have general queries about naming wildlife.
- If you know of any local publications which may be interested in including an article from us.
- We are available to give talks or presentations to interested local groups about the Records Centre and/or Kent's wildlife.
- If you would like to know about training opportunities in recording and the use of recording software and technologies.
- We offer support and assistance to all recording and wildlife groups in Kent; please do get in touch to see how we can help.