

## EDITOR'S REPORT 2023

Last year saw the printing of Volume 36 of the *British Journal of Entomology and Natural History* in four parts, in March, July, September and December, together with an Anniversary Field Meetings Supplement published in September 2023. Total Volume length extended to 368 pages.

Twenty-five main papers including six describing new species to Britain and 20 short notes were published during the year. Field meetings were held for the first time since the Covid outbreak, with four reported. Most of the articles were on Hymenoptera and Coleoptera, with a sprinkling of articles on Diptera, Hemiptera and Lepidoptera. The mix was enriched by a paper on alderflies (Megaloptera) and notes on a snakefly (Raphidioptera) and scaly cricket (Orthoptera). Papers of wider interest included the northwestward range expansion of true bugs in the UK (Steve Judd *et al.*) the composition of the Society's collections (Peter Chandler), the use of DNA barcoding to identify difficult moth species (James Thacker); obtaining, recording and using host data for reared parasitoid wasps (Mark Shaw); the parasitoid community attacking an unusual stem-feeding gracillariid moth (Charles Godfray and William Langdon) and new ant species entering the UK via a novel trade route (Matt Hamer and Annie Northfield).

There were 17 book reviews. Two obituaries were published during the year - of Barry Goater, our longest standing member, and of Colin Smith, a mathematics teacher who published books on the butterfly fauna of Nepal. It was pleasing to announce the award of an MBE to our former President, Alan Stubbs, 'for services to invertebrate conservation'.

With our Society's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary drawing to a close it was decided for posterity to publish a separate Supplement reporting full species lists of our revisit to Hadleigh Country Park in Essex where one of the Society's earliest field meetings took place in 1890 and the Bioblitz meeting held at the Society's headquarters at Dinton Country Park, Reading in June 2022. The reports for the Supplement were compiled by Ian Sims and Jon Cole, respectively.

I would like to thank Sean Clancy, Mark Sterling, Peter Chandler, Peter Hodge, Andrew Halstead and Alan Stewart for helping compile the Annual Exhibition report. Thanks are due to proof readers Jolyon Alderman, Adrian Knowles, Darren Mann, Tony Galsworthy and Les Evans-Hill. We do however need more proof readers. Special thanks go to Roger Hawkins for compiling the Index, and to Peter Chandler and Norman Hall for checking species names. Thanks are also due to all those who kindly acted as referees and to Andrew Halstead for arranging receipt of extra copies of the journal for storage at Dinton Pastures.

JOHN BADMIN