



# NEWSLETTER 39

September 2008

## *Ancylis laetana*

Cloud Wood in North West Leicestershire rarely lets you down regarding a night's, moth trapping. With evening temperature steadily on the increase Cloud Wood seemed a good choice for May 31<sup>st</sup> 2008. Almost immediately there were plenty of moths around all the traps. Several species were in good numbers with, 67 Small Phoenix, 51 Broken-barred Carpets, 108 Green Carpets, 16 Seraphim, 32 Scorched Wing and 14 Alder Moths and a total for the night of 94 species of 1150 individuals. Included in this bumper haul was a single *Ancylis laetana*. A member of the Tortricidae, *A. laetana* is an Aspen feeder and a very pretty one at that. This record constitutes a first for VC55, and being one of the more distinctive and easily recognised species should be looked for, wherever Aspen is in good supply.



*Ancylis laetana*

## Graham & Anona Finch

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### **Black Arches (*Lymantria monacha*)**

The stronghold for Black Arches *Lymantria monacha* has always been in the woodlands of east Leicestershire, with Pickworth Great Wood being the main location. However, on August 6<sup>th</sup> 2004, during a light trapping session with Anona Finch and Keith Tailby, at Beacon Hill,

on the Charnwood Forest a single male Black Arches was found in one of my traps. Being the sceptic I am, I was far from convinced that this individual was a genuine record of this species at this site. Knowing that Keith had trapped Luffenham Heath on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and recorded 3 Black Arches there. I was convinced that somehow a stowaway had secluded itself either in some nook or cranny of Keith's extra large estate car, plenty of dark corners there, or had managed to hide away in one of his traps. The culprit then, able to make a break for freedom on the 6<sup>th</sup> August at Beacon Hill only to end up in one of the traps. I remained convinced this was the case, that was, until July 17<sup>th</sup> 2006 at Stoneywell Wood (again on the Charnwood Forest) when, yet another single male Black Arches was found resting on an egg box in one of my traps. This time I was alone and had no one to lay any blame on for transporting the said specimen to an unexpected location. In the mean time both of these sites plus other areas on the Charnwood Forest have been regularly trapped since and no more Black Arches have been recorded. However, over the last couple of years Megan Dimitrov has been well and truly bitten by the mothing bug, (pun intended) and has been sending her species lists to me for inclusion in the Loughborough Naturalists' Club, Heritage bulletin. Apart from operating a light trap in her garden in Loughborough, she has occasionally run a light from her parents' house in Woodhouse Eaves. In July 2008 Megan caught this fine male Black Arches (pictured), from Woodhouse Eaves. As far as I am aware this species is not a noted migrant or even a long distance wanderer, so hopefully these records are evidence of a thinly scattered breeding population on the Charnwood Forest.

## LEICESTERSHIRE

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**Next Copy Deadline:**  
5<sup>th</sup> January 2009



Black Arches (*L. monacha*)

### Graham Finch

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#### Brown Argus (*Plebejus agestis*)

A noteworthy total of 30 Brown Argus were recorded on a sunny but blustery day in the ley of a sheltered hedgerow on Shenton Estates. Most of which had recently emerged and were in immaculate condition. Other species in evidence included, Common Blue, Meadow Brown, Small Copper, Small Skipper, Speckled Wood and a tatty Small Tortoiseshell. Other interesting sightings were Roesel's Bush Cricket, Long-winged Conehead, Slender Groundhopper, and Lesser Marsh grasshopper.



Brown Argus (*Plebejus agestis*)

### Graham and Anona Finch

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#### Water ladybird update

In Newsletter 38 I was enquiring as to the occurrence of the water ladybird (*Anisosticta 19-punctata*) in VC55. John Dawes contacted

me and said that this species is common in VC55 on waterside vegetation, particularly at the water's edge.

## Frank Clark (Ed.)

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### Possible new record for VC55

Derek Lott identified, from a photograph, a long-horn beetle I found in my garden this week as *Strictoleptura rubra*, which he thinks may be a County first.

I live in Loughborough by the Canal at 31 Lisle St, Loughborough, LE11 1AW (SK531203)..

Unfortunately, it flew off when I was photographing it. Which just goes to show that you keep an unknown beastly until it's been properly identified...sorry!

I will send the record to The Loughborough Naturalists' Club and put a photograph on their website as well.



*Strictoleptura rubra*?

## Megan C Dimitrov

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### Hoverfly Workshop

On the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2008 twelve LES members attended a hoverfly workshop conducted by Stuart Ball and Roger Morris at Barrow Collections Resources Centre. We spent the day working our way through a small collection of hoverflies given to us by the convenors, first to tribe and then on to genus and species. I am sure that by the end of the day we all felt a lot more confident about hoverfly taxonomy than when we started, I know that I did. However, the plan is to present our own hoverfly collections, all identified to species of course, at another workshop to be arranged. Many thanks to Anona and Graham Finch for arranging the workshop and setting up the room on the day,

Frank Clark (Ed.)



Hoverfly workshop

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### A new sawfly, *Cimbex connatus* (Schrank)

An interesting enquiry from a schoolboy in Loughborough has been confirmed by Guy Knight and Mark Boddington as a 'Club horned sawfly', *Cimbex connatus*. It was found in Loughborough, SK512212 on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2008. It appears to be only the second record for the county and was beaten, by only a few weeks, by an adult female found at Leicester SK578027 on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2008.

This species seems to be invading Britain and has been seen in 10 Eastern counties since 1997, as far north as York. The previous record was in 1947. Before jumping to the conclusion that it is a climate change indicator, it should be noted that the larvae feed on Alder, especially the Italian Alder (*Alnus cordata*). This Alder is an increasingly popular imported planting in public car parks and playing fields. The larvae have also been found on native alders such as *A. incana* (Grey Alder) and *A. glutinosa* (common Alder). The larvae rest curled up on the leaf undersides and can be found in late summer to autumn. Apparently they have a 'defensive spray', so be warned.

**Dr Anthony Fletcher**  
**Keeper of Natural History,**  
**Leicestershire Museums**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> September 2008**

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### Obituaries

The Society was sad to learn of the deaths this year of Dorothy Philips and Audrey Lomas. The Society extends its sympathy to their families and friends.

## Indoor Meetings Programme

All meetings are held at Holly Hayes, 216 Birstall Road, Birstall, Leicestershire LE4 4DG. Arrive at 7:00 pm for pre-meeting refreshments. Evening session starts at 7:30 pm in the lecture room.

### Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> October 2008

**'Members' Evening** – Please bring along any exhibits, photographs, digital or classic transparencies to share with us all.

### Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> November 2008

**'Dragonflies and Damsels from Priory Water and Beyond'** – Steve Houghton will take us 'out and about' in his search for the dragonflies and damselflies of VC55 and beyond.

### Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2008

**Annual AGM and mince pies** – Come and share the festive season with us. A quick AGM followed by a feast of mince pies with presentations and exhibits from our members and a chance to have a social chat.

### Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> January 2009

**'An Audience with Sue'** – Come and meet Sue Timms, Senior Ecologist with Leicestershire County Council. Sue will give an insight into her work and will answer any questions you might have on the future of Biological recording at Holly Hayes. Sue is looking forward to meeting you.

### Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> February 2009

**'Recorder friendly leafminers'** – Anona Finch will introduce us to the leafmining Lepidoptera that are easy to identify and show us their unique habits and lifestyles.

### Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2009

To be announced.

### Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2009

To be announced.

## Looking for information?

The following are willing to act as an initial point of contact for providing advice and information to members. As you will see, this list is far from complete – If you think you can help, please let us know.

Lepidoptera:- Adrian Russell, 15 St Swithin's Road, Leicester LE5 2GE.

Tel. 0116 241 5101. Email: [Adrian@wainscot.demon.co.uk](mailto:Adrian@wainscot.demon.co.uk).

Biological Recording:- Anona Finch, Holly Hayes, 216 Birstall Road, Birstall, Leicester LE4 4DG. Email: [AFinch@leics.gov.uk](mailto:AFinch@leics.gov.uk)

Coleoptera :- Derek Lott, 5 Welland Road, Barrow on Soar, Leicestershire LE12 8NA  
Email: [Derek@lott.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:Derek@lott.fsnet.co.uk)

Diptera :- John Kramer, 31 Ash Tree Road, Oadby, Leicester LE2 5TE

Tel. 0116 271 6499. Email: [johnkramer@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:johnkramer@tiscali.co.uk)

Hymenoptera :- Maggie Frankum, 3 Chapel Lane, Knighton, Leicester LE2 3WF

Tel. 0116 270 5833. Email: [royfrankum@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:royfrankum@tiscali.co.uk)